HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

CALENDAR

OF THE

MANUSCRIPTS

OF THE

MARQUIS OF BATH

PRESERVED AT

LONGLEAT, WILTSHIRE.

VOL. III.

(PRIOR PAPERS.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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The work of selecting and transcribing the letters and papers in this volume, on behalf of the Historical Manuscripts Commissioners, was begun by the late Mr. J. J. Cartwright, M.A., and completed by Mr. A. Maxwell-Lyte, B.A. The volume has been edited and passed through the press by Mr. J. M. Rigg, B.A., the index having been compiled by Mr. R. H. Brodie.

INTRODUCTION.

Hitherto the world has known little of Matthew Prior save as a man of letters; for as to the serious business of his life it was vain to seek for enlightenment in the misty account of his negotiations compiled by his executor Adrian Drift (2nd ed. 1740). This lack the present volume in some measure supplies; for, though it contains no state paper relating to the Treaty of Utrecht, it illustrates every phase of the earlier period in which, as successively Secretary to the Embassy and Minister *ad interim* at The Hague, 1693–7, Secretary to the Embassy at the Congress of Ryswick, 1697, and, finally, Secretary to the Embassy and Minister *ad interim* at Paris, 1698–99, Prior served his apprenticeship in the mystery of diplomacy. It contains, moreover, a "Journal of the Proceedings at Ryswick, 1697," drawn up under his personal supervision, which, with the subjoined Memoirs and the relevant correspondence, furnishes material for a clear and consecutive narrative of the entire negotiation from the first overtures of the French to the ratification of the treaty.

How far, then, it may be asked, do these papers elucidate the inner history of the treaty, and in particular how far do they serve to explain the immense concessions made by the French? In 1695 France had lost in Marshal Luxembourg her ablest general, and had good reason to be dismayed by the fall of Namur, but her position was still by no means desperate. It would have required more sieges, no little time, and much hard fighting to compel her to evacuate the Netherlands. Her financial straits were extreme, but those of the Allies were probably not less so, and the separate peace with Savoy (1696) enabled her to effect a considerable economy, and concentrate her forces where they could operate with most effect, on the Rhine and the Spanish seaboard. Her overtures for peace on the basis of the treaties of Westphalia and Nymegen therefore took the world by surprise, the more so as notwithstanding Callières' "*beau mot*, that we must make a peace on all sides, for we cannot make a war," lack of funds did not prevent the raising of recruits (p. 90, *infra*). Prior, however, was at first sanguine as to the result of the negotiation. "The success of the whole affair," he wrote, Nov. 2, N.S., 1696, "will depend upon the resolutions of our Parliament. France will certainly give more or less in the treaty as the people of England will proportionally give towards carrying on the war in case those offers miscarry; and however great our poverty is, we must hide it,

if possible, from the enemy" (p. 93, *infra*).* Nevertheless he was soon discouraged by the slow progress made towards the adjustment of preliminaries, which indeed was not effected until Jan. 1697. Their substance was the retrocession of Strassburg, Luxemburg and Dinant in the state in which they were taken, of Mons and Charleroi as they were at the date of the preliminaries, and of Lorraine as it was at the date of the Treaty of Nymegen, and the annulment of all reunions (*i.e.* annexations effected by chicane) made since that treaty (p. 101, *infra*).

Notwithstanding the settlement of the preliminaries, there was still a great deal of discussion (the Imperialists being disposed to haggle over everything, and the French to await the reduction of Barcelona) before the Congress could assemble at Ryswick (May), or the real work of negotiation begin; and by that time King William entertained such grave doubts of the good faith of the French that in default of express assurances on that head he was prepared to withdraw from the Congress. "His Majesty," wrote Prior, July 21–31, "with the greatest wisdom and calmness has let the French plainly understand that he will have peace or war, and does not think it expedient to protract a negotiation here which can be no way advantageous to his affairs or those of the Allies in general; and I believe this declaration will do more towards the procuring a speedy peace than all the *factums* and musty papers which can be given in to and transmitted by the Mediator here" (p. 142, *infra*).

This prognostic proved to be accurate: the subsequent course of the negotiations was comparatively smooth, and

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* Some interesting matter relating to the financial crisis of 1696 will be found on pp. 79-82, *infra*. Prior, whose pay at that time was only 1*l.* per day with an allowance for "reasonable extraordinaries" felt the pinch sorely, and wrote piteously to Charles Montagu:—"My tallies I cannot sell under thirty per cent. loss; my aunt will not send me one farthing; the chain and medal the States gave me is at pawn; I have but two pistoles in the house or (to say plainly) in the world, and I have every morning a *levée* (God be thanked for the respite of Sunday) of postmen, stationers, tailors, cooks and wine-merchants who have not been paid since last December" (p. 86, *infra*).

Later on he wrote to Richard Powys, of the Treasury:—"Tallies at 45 per cent. may make a man mad, especially if he has but 20*s.* per day, but the wood, I hope, will sell better, and the allowance be augmented in some time." . . . . . "Some miracle may possibly mollify the hearts of the Treasury that we may get a little ready money for these bills and the ordinary appointments. Who knows? We should do well, I think, to try it, though I am ashamed to ask Mr. Montague anything when I fear to put him upon the hardship of refusing me" (p. 95, *infra*).

To which Powys drily replied:—"It must be a miracle indeed, as you say, if our Treasury give you ready money, for I can assure you our condition is such at present that there is not sixpence of disposable money, all that is in the Exchequer being either appropriated for the war or repayment of loans" (p. 97, *infra*).

Prior's means were eventually augmented, in a manner characteristic of the age, from the Irish establishment by his appointment to the office of Chief Secretary to the Lords Justices, which he held as a sinecure, the duties being discharged by a subordinate (pp. 117, 120, 126-129). This unsatisfactory arrangement, which naturally led to a dispute as to the division of the emoluments, the Lords Justices would have terminated by dismissing Prior, but his influence at Court proved strong enough to secure his retention of the place (pp. 141-5, 186, 211, 266-8, 280, 283, 300, 310, 367, 375-8).

on Sept. 20, N.S., 1697, the treaty was signed with no other concession to France than the renunciation (not without compensation) of the claim to Strassburg.

There is nothing in the papers to explain so almost total a surrender of the fruits of so many years of fighting and chicane, unless we may accept Prior's statement that Madame de Maintenon was the real peacemaker. "Madam Maintenon," he writes from Paris, April 10, N.S., 1698, "is our friend and will keep the Peace, if possible, *as she made it*, not out of any kindness she has to us, but from a notion that the King's engaging in business impairs his health. 'Tis incredible the power that woman has; everything goes through her hands, and Diana made much a less figure at Ephesus. Her niece had t'other day in money and jewels with the Duke de Noailles' son a better fortune than a daughter of France had formerly; and the aunt received the visits of the Court upon it in bed, it being concerted that the Duchess of Burgundy should have a chair set her and refuse to sit, excusing herself upon the shortness of her visit, and that, the Duchess not sitting, the other ladies and princesses could not pretend to it" (pp. 204–5, *infra*). Again, April 24, N.S., 1698, he writes :—

"The King particularly has no mind to enter into a new war, and Madame Maintenon (our good friend) increases that pacific humour in him by telling him that all business is destructive to his health. He is so attentive to this doctrine that he has said, if the King of Spain dies, he leaves the succession to be determined by the Council, whose determination he will not oppose by way of arms, except they give it to the Emperor's second son. In the meantime Madam Maintenon governs him as absolutely as Roxalana did Solyman. He lives at Marly like an Eastern Monarch making waterworks and planting melons, and leaves his bashas to ruin the land, provided they are constant in bringing in their tribute" (p. 208, *infra*).

These letters from Paris are in a literary sense the cream of the collection, for with little else to do than to record his impressions and report the gossip and scandal of the hour, Prior could hardly fail to be entertaining; and he is never more entertaining than when he writes in French. How excellent is his characterisation of Louis XIV. in his letter to Albemarle of March 1, N.S., 1698 :—

"Le Roy a beaucoup de santé pour un homme de soixante ans et plus de vanité qu'une fille de seize. On n'a qu'à voir sa maison pour en mépriser souverainement le maître; bas-relief, fresco, tableaux, tous représente Louis le Grand, et cela d'une manière si grossière que le Czar y trouveroit à redire. Il ne sçauroit cracher dans aucun coin de ses appartements sans voir sa propre figure ou celle de son lieutenant le Soleil, et sans se trouver Héros et Demidieu en peinture" (p. 195, *infra*).

Nor does Prior fail to record in sufficiently caustic terms his opinion of the King's ministers, puppets like their master in the hand of the Maintenon :—" Pontchartrain est universellement décrié comme qui l'entend les finances le moins et qui ruinera le plustôt. Torsi n'a point de génie : tout son mérite est d'être né Colbert, et d'avoir épousé la fille de Pomponne. Ce dernier a la réputation d'honnête homme, et il est reconnu pour le premier ministre après la Maintenon (cela s'entend toujours). C'est prodigieux que le pouvoir de cette vieille gouvernante sur l'esprit de son pupil royal de soixante. Il n'ose rien faire sans elle ni luy refuser tout ce qu'elle veut. Il y a quelques jours qu'un petit employ fut donné par l'intercession de Mons. de Torsi à un de ses amis : l'ordre étoit dépêché, et l'affaire comme faite : un autre s'addressa plus heureusement à la Maintenon : elle envoye sur le champ un valet seulement au secrétaire, et dans un quart d'heure tout estoit changé : la première commission estoit anéantie et une autre présentée au Roy pour être signée en faveur du dernier suppliant " (p. 201, *infra*).

Nor can we omit the following admirable piece of persiflage :—

" Nous revinmes hier de Versailles, et fûmes l'autre jour dans les jardins avec le Roy, qui promena my Lord par tout. Si c'étoit un compliment fait à my Lord par Sa Majesté ou une ostentation de sa propre grandeur, qu'importe il ? Elle fit sçavoir à son Excellence qu'elle avoit inventé et ordonné tout, qu'elle en avoit dressé les plans, mis en diverses rencontres les architectes à la raison, et à force de dire cecy souvent sans avoir été contredit, à la fin je pense qu'elle commence à le croire. Monsieur étoit obligé de confirmer tout ce que son grand frère disoit, et une demi-douzaine de cordons-bleu y faisoit le chorus, et faisoit remarquer à nous autres combien *gracieux* étoit leur Roy chaque fois qu'il fit à quelqu'un de nous autres la moindre inclination de tête. *Gracieux*, par parenthèse, est le mot à la mode : un homme est *gracieux*, c'est à dire honnête ; une femme est *gracieuse*, belle ; on chante, on mange et on joue *gracieusement* " (p. 212, *infra*).

During his residence at Paris, the exiles at St. Germains of course engrossed a great deal of Prior's attention. The favour shewn them at the French Court, their evident hopes of a speedy restoration, half amused, half alarmed him ; and he was at infinite pains to fathom their supposed designs, and sent regular reports to Secretary Vernon of such information as he received from various correspondents who professed to be in the secrets of the Jacobites. It is evident from the correspondence that neither Prior nor Vernon attached undue importance to these communications. Prior, writing to Lord Jersey, June 24, N.S., 1699, describes the principal correspondent as follows :—" Brocard, as we call him, is Tr . . . an

Irishman encouraged by Mr. Vernon ; his pretended business is merchandise of English things, as stockings, hats, etc., under which notion he gives our friends at St. Germains an account of things in England ; he is well with them, and particularly with my Lord Middleton's party. It was this man that amused us all last winter with a story of a fellow sent into England by Frank Stafford ; however, though he has not been very useful, he may be so : he costs us between two and three hundred pounds per year " (p. 360, *infra*. Cf. pp. 274-5, *infra*). The rogue was soon afterwards " found out, and was ordered to leave St. Germains " (p. 378, *infra*).

The style in which Prior writes of the late King and Queen is regrettably harsh, not to say, brutal. He has no pity for fallen greatness, and notes with evident exultation the old and worn appearance and stooping gait of King James, adding, " the Queen looks ill and melancholy ; their equipage is mighty ragged, and their horses are all as lean as Sancho's " (p. 257, *infra*). And in another letter he writes :—

" I faced old James and all his Court the other day at St. Cloud. *Vive Guillaume* ! you never saw such a strange figure as the old bully is, lean, worn and riv'led, not unlike Neal the projector ; the Queen looks very melancholy, but otherwise well enough ; their equipages are all very ragged and contemptible " (p. 259, *infra*).

Nevertheless he strongly deprecated the meanness of withholding from the Queen her stipulated pension. " Do we intend, my dear Master," he wrote to Montagu (p. 260, *infra*), " to give her the fifty thousand pounds *per annum*, or no ? If we do not, I (or rather my Lord Jersey now) should be furnished with chicaning answers when we are pressed upon that point, for it was fairly promised, that is certain ; if we do, the giving it openly and generously would establish the King a reputation in the minds of the French, which, if we give twice that money to purchase, would not, I think, be bought too dear : but this is my own sentiment and to my own Master : for the rest, *quae supra nos nihil ad nos.*"

The following extract shows the friendly and indeed familiar footing on which King James stood with King Louis :—

" Our friends of St. Germains shine extremely at Fontainebleau : all the court is made to Queen Mary ; everybody is at her toilette in the morning, from whence the King of France leads her to chapel : the two Kings and the Queen in the midst sit at the head of the table at dinner with equal marks of distinction and sovereignty, and '*à boire pour le Roi d'Angleterre !*' *ou* '*pour la Reine*' is spoke as loud and with the same ceremony as '*pour le Roi*' when they mean their own King. It is really not a right figure which we make, being here at Paris whilst all the other ministers are at Court ; and on the other side, I know not what we should do there,

or how behave ourselves in a place where the two Courts are inseparable" (p. 277, *infra*).

Very early in his career Prior was complimented by Sir William Trumbull on having "found the secret of joining two things generally thought incompatible, poetry and business, and both in perfection" (p. 79, *infra*); nor, when due allowance is made for the taste of the age and the style of the courtier, will the eulogy be found to be devoid of truth. On his appointment as Secretary to the Embassy at Ryswick, Prior wrote to his friend Charles Montagu with pardonable pride, that he had "got it with the advantage of having the King say that he was satisfied with my service, and thought my requests reasonable" (p. 87, *infra*); and there appears to be no doubt that, as long as he lived, William's satisfaction remained unabated. During great part of his time at Paris Prior was virtually ambassador, for Portland's mission terminated in May, 1698, Jersey did not arrive until the following September, and was absent during November and December, and Manchester, who was appointed to succeed him upon his recall in April, 1699, delayed his coming until the following August.

In consideration of the increased responsibility thus laid upon him the King was pleased to double Prior's allowance from the time of his departure for France.

It was, however, but natural that Prior should be dissatisfied with an employment in which he bore the burden but had neither the acknowledged position nor the full pay, while he was bound to maintain as much as he could of the state of an ambassador. He also felt aggrieved that he was not sent as envoy to Nancy upon occasion of the marriage of Mlle de Chartres to the Duke of Lorraine, a commission to which he deemed himself entitled by his long service, and his acquaintance with the Duchess, and in which his "fine clothes and new *livrées* made for my Lord Jersey's entry" would have "come mightily in play" (pp. 279, 299, 308, *infra*). Hence on Jersey's appointment to the office of Secretary of State he was eager to return home and serve under him; which he humorously describes as "descending from the high rope to tumble more safely upon the ground." "For God's sake," he continues in the same letter (to Charles Montagu), "will you think of a little money for me? for I have fluttered away the Devil and all in this monkey country, where the air is infected with vanity, and extravagance is as epidemical as the itch in Scotland. My bounty money from the King is now due, five hundred pounds; if one could get a warrant signed for it till you thought a little of my arrears; for to be pawned in France and lose my hopes in England at one time is too much for any man to bear who was not born under the star of Colonel Powers" (pp. 326–7, *infra*). Finding that both Montagu and Vernon were of opinion that the

public service required that he should await Lord Manchester's arrival, he wrote imploringly to Portland :—" I hope it is determined that I come back as soon as my Lord Manchester arrives here : Mr. Mountague may compliment me as handsomely as he pleases, but I will not begin the trade a fourth time, except, I say, His Majesty commands me ; and in that case, if it were to live in the Highlands of Scotland (which, with respect to Lord Selkirk's better judgment, is not the happiest place upon earth), I should be very far from disputing it, or murmuring " (p. 336, *infra*).

Prior was in correspondence with Portland while the first Partition Treaty was on the *tapis*, and his letters reflect the nervousness which then prevailed at the French Court. A strong squadron, " thirty or thirty-two ships in all, besides twenty-eight galleys," was equipped for service in the Mediterranean. Villeroy was " mighty inquisitive " as to the strength of the English militia (pp. 234–5, *infra*). A report that Count Harrach had " proposed the perpetual government of the Milanois for the Archduke " made " a good deal of noise," and there was much speculation among the politicians as to what " we should do in this conjuncture. I told them freely that my opinion did not signify much, but it was that we should be in a condition not to be hurt in the scuffle, but to preserve our own and make the figure we ought of holding the balance of Europe right. From thence we come to talk of the King our Master ; it is impossible to tell Your Lordship the excessive praises they gave him : Count Guiscard went further on this head than Your Lordship can imagine, and though I bore it with a seeming modesty and *retenue*, it made me as proud as if I had taken Namur myself " (p. 248, *infra*).

It would seem that Prior at first thought the first Partition Treaty a masterpiece of statecraft. At any rate he wrote to Vernon, Nov. 19, N.S., 1698 :—" I believe measures are pretty well settled towards the maintaining the Peace in case the crazy King of Spain should die. I have more than barely my opinion in this point, but as it is a secret into which I am let, I beg of you to let it rest in your own bosom till you hear of it otherwise " (p. 293, *infra*) ; and in a subsequent letter (to Dorset) announcing the King of Spain's nomination of the Electoral Prince of Bavaria as his heir, he observes :—

" This succession of Spain is mostly our King's contrivance and effecting. Some faults he has, or else he would not be a man ; as to his character of a Prince, he has carried his reputation to a prodigious height, and this affair must be allowed to be a proof of it beyond denial " (p. 305, *infra*). Yet in 1701 Prior voted for the impeachment of Portland, Somers, Orford and Halifax for the parts they had taken in advising and negotiating this and the subsequent Partition Treaty ; and at a later period he declared that he had never " much approved " the policy.

Prior's long residence abroad and his large and varied experience of affairs of state had taught him to view the English system of government by party with unmitigated disgust, which was vastly increased by the recklessness with which the Commons reduced the forces of the Crown at a time when France was prepared for war, all Europe was expecting in breathless suspense the imminent demise of the King of Spain, and the arrangement effected by the first Partition Treaty had been upset by the death of the Electoral Prince of Bavaria (pp. 313–14, *infra*). In this connection a peculiar interest attaches to the exposition of his own theory of kingcraft contained in the letter to Portland of March 11, N.S., 1698–9 and its sequel of March 18 (pp. 318–21 and 324, *infra*), a theory substantially the same with that afterwards developed by Bolingbroke in the *Idea of a Patriot King*, and reduced to practice with no very happy results by George III. during the earlier part of his reign. From Portland's reply, March 16–26, it would seem that these letters were laid before the King. "Vos lettres ne sont veues que d'un seul, là où ils vous font du bien. Soyez seur que je vous ayme trop pour en faire un autre usage" (p. 326, *infra*), whereon Prior comments :—"By that *un seul de mes amis* that saw my letters Your Lordship either means yourself alone or one other who had the greatest right and reason in the world to see them" (p. 329, *infra*). And from Portland's indirect reply, "Je vous ay témoigné dans ma précédente la satisfaction que l'on a eu des sentiments que vous aves marquez sur les affaires de ce pais, qui n'ont estez veus que de celui seul qui a le droit de les voir" (p. 332, *infra*), it is manifest that Prior had guessed rightly. We may, therefore, fairly suppose that these letters were not without their influence on the royal counsels as evinced in the subsequent reconstruction of the administration upon a broader bottom.

The letters of the Earl of Manchester (pp. 379–429, *infra*) serve to supplement those printed long ago by Christian Cole in *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, 1697–1708, London, 1735.

The later correspondence throws little light on the course of public affairs. Such interest as it possesses is mainly biographical and literary ; and it must be owned that in Prior's letters to Lord Harley there is a deplorable degree of sameness. Prior was now a disappointed and needy man. His part in the negotiation of the Treaty of Utrecht had all but ruined him. Though in effect ambassador at Paris after Shrewsbury's departure (August, 1713), he had been both inadequately and irregularly paid. Upon the change of Government he had had much ado to induce the Treasury, though his old friend Montagu, by that time Earl of Halifax, was at its head, to furnish him with the funds to pay his debts (pp. 445–7 *infra*, and vol. i. of this Calendar, pp. 235, 237) ; and he had returned to England to find his public life closed by

impeachment and imprisonment. Prematurely aged and infirm, he was thus, as at the outset of his career, almost entirely dependent on his pen and his patron. No wonder, therefore, that his gaiety is somewhat forced and his flattery at times fulsome. The sale of his works and Lord Harley's bounty in course of time secured him a modest competence and a villa at Down, Essex, for the adornment of which he called to his aid all his *virtuosi* friends ; but he did not live long to enjoy his hard-earned *otium cum dignitate.*

Nor do Prior's correspondents make us much amends for the disappointment which his own letters cause us. There are indeed two characteristic letters from Atterbury (pp. 451–2, 456–7, *infra*), and three letters from Swift (pp. 464, 478, 481, *infra*), but the latter are of no great interest. For the rest, the Abbé Gaultier with evident sincerity deplores Prior's ill treatment by his country, and assures him of his own and Torcy's unalterable regard (pp. 461–2, *infra*). ; the Duke of Buckingham returns *Solomon on the Vanity of the World* with a preposterous compliment, and Lord Bathurst protests that he is in love with *Alma* (p. 458, *infra*) ; the Countess of Sandwich sweetly acknowledges the gift of their author's likeness (p. 479, *infra*) ; Lord Chesterfield cites Alcidiana, " that great and extraordinary lady," in praise of the *Nut-Brown Maid*, (p. 466, *infra*) ; Mrs. Manley, announcing the revival of *Lucius* for her benefit, craves for " gracious Mrs. Oldfield," who is to speak Prior's " admirable epilogue," the advantage of his instruction (pp. 479–80, *infra*) ; and letters from Richardson Pack, John Dennis, Giles Jacob, and Charles Gildon further illustrate Prior's relations with Grub Street.

J. M. Rigg.

THE MANUSCRIPTS

OF THE MOST HONOURABLE

THE MARQUIS OF BATH.

VOL. III.

THE PRIOR PAPERS.

MATTHEW PRIOR to his UNCLE.

1685, July 18 [-28].—"If my necessity, Sir, encourages my boldness, I know your goodness sufficient to excuse one and relieve t'other. I am very sensible what expences my education puts you to, and must confess my repeated petitions might have wearied any charity but yours; but since I have no advocate, no patron, no father but yourself, pardon that importunity which makes me seek the kindness of all these in you, which throws me at your feet to beg at once your blessing and assistance, and that, since your indulgence has set me safe from shore, you would not let me perish in the ocean." *Copy.* (X. d.)

THE SAME to MRS. KATHARINE PRIOR.

1685, August 11 [-21].—"My neglect, Madam, is but a new occasion for you to exercise your goodness on. You, like heaven, can as often return a pardon as I give up my repentance; the truth of which, Madam, be pleased to accept as well in honest prose as in bad verse: though, Madam, this afflicts my zeal, that the oracle never answers. My religion depends much upon faith, and I can tell no more news from my heaven than the astrologers from theirs, unless like them I fairly guess at it. I should really be afraid to write did I imagine your silence proceeded from your anger. I am extremely willing to attribute it to your hatred which you said you had to writing. That was in your last letter dated a considerable time ago. I'll swear to show both how Your Ladyship abhors pen and paper, and what reason I have to complain. If your own goodness will allow me one letter a year, after the great satisfaction of hearing how you do, let me know if *Jenny does fill out grains in ivory pails;* if Mrs. Wilson be not still out of humour because her house is not burnt; if Mrs. Watson thinks her windpipe secured

by this time, and that cribbage of a Sunday night is not Popish doctrine. Now to be serious, Madam, with ten thousand thanks for all your favours and as many prayers that you would renew them by a letter, wishing you as much health as a country parson in the dedication of his sermon to his patron, I am, etc." *Copy.* (X. e.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to DR. HUMPHREY GOWER, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge.

1685.—" The great Richelieu is confessed not only to have pardoned but encouraged Boileau's muse, whilst she [as] boldly showed as happily prevented the barbarity of their language: and a Prelate of our Church, in worth and excellence scarce inferior to the then famous Cardinal, is known to have endeavoured the like kindness to ours. These eminent examples have given me this present presumption; made me without blushing bring poetry to the most religious man and satire to the best natured. However unlike this attempt may prove to those excellent pieces, 'tis written with as honest a design and has as great a patron, I hope, to protect it: it may discover the disease it cannot cure; let our translators know that Rome and Athens are our territories; that our Laureate might in good manners have left the version of Latin authors to those who had the happiness to understand them; that we accuse not others, but defend ourselves, and would only shew that these corruptions of our tongue proceed from him and his tribe, which he unjustly casts upon the clergy. Thus, Sir, I humbly throw this trifle at your feet, hoping the product of my vacant hours may prove the diversion of yours, and too well assured of the greatness of your kindness to fear the severity of your judgment." *Copy.* (X. f.)

Enclosing a copy of verses on the modern translators.

JOHN III. OF POLAND to JAMES II.

1690, August 28. [N.S.] Warsaw.—Recredential letter for M. du Teil, envoy from James II.; wishing that Prince better success in the future. *Latin. Copy.*

" N.B.—This envoy, Du Teil, is a minister of France employed by King James." *French.* (XX. 1.)

QUEEN MARY to the STATES GENERAL.

1691, August 7 [-17]. Whitehall.—Letter of thanks for their congratulations of the 4th instant on the recent victories in Ireland. *French. Copy. Signed. Countersigned by the Earl of Nottingham.* (XX. 3.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF DORSET,] LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

1692-3, [January. The Hague.]—" 'Tis always my duty to send Your Lordship the news from this side, though at

present it is very bad. Furnes and Dixmuyde are lost; the enemy set down before Furnes, the 5th, afternoon, opened their trenches in the night, and the next morning summoned the Governor Count Hoorne to render the town, which he did upon capitulation, himself and the garrison marching with two pieces of cannon to Nieuport. This he did, they say, upon letters from the Elector of Bavaria, that in case of extremity he should save the garrison and quit the place; and upon his knowing that the Elector could not relieve him, the French having raised their batteries and possessed themselves of the Downs on one side, and the sluices being all broken, and the ways unpassable on the other side between Furnes and Nieuport.

"Dixmuyde falls in course: the garrison of that place is likewise retired to Nieuport, whence the Elector is gone to Ostend to give orders concerning the state of that place, in case the French should attack it." *Copy.* (X. 1.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Nottingham.

1692–3, January 13–23. Hague.—"On Wednesday Major Guidet returned with the Duke of Gourdon his prisoner. The Major expected that I should have received orders for him from Mr. Blathwayt, without which he did not know how he should dispose of the Duke. Not having received such orders, I waited on the Pensioner who has given a warrant by which the Duke is confined in the Castlenye, which is the best prison here, and commanded me to write to Mr. Blathwayt, which accordingly I do.

"We have no news except that the generals of the Allies continue their council of war at Cologne, and are apprehensive that the French design again upon Rhinsfeld." *Copy.* (X. 2.)

Matthew Prior to [James] Vernon.

1693, February 10. N.S.—"When you have done me the favour to write to me, in justice one would think I ought not to answer you when I have little to return besides the impertinence of my thanks; be pleased to excuse me, and be partial to the duty the son owes you where otherwise you would blame the babbling of the Secretary.

"The French lay in such stores and ammunition at Namur and Maubeuge that we fear they design to besiege Charleroi. We have sent a supply to that place under the conduct of Gravenmore with about 3,000 horse, which is safely come thither: if you do not soon finish your parliament matters, and send us our King over, we shall make but sorry work in Flanders. We begin to hope well on the Rhine, since Prince Lewis of Baden is to come there, besides what forces the Emperor sends. He asks four regiments of His Majesty: can you spare them? I know not if you have

heard that the Elector of Saxe and the Duke of Zell have entered into the alliance made between the King and the States.

"Further North or N.E. (to talk like a geographer) matters might yet be accommodated. Sweden desires only some ease in what relates to the traffic. Baron Jauls [Juels], who is there from Denmark, has found (at least in appearance) no great reception, and it is talked that a marriage is on foot between the Princess of Sweden and the King of the Romans. You are best able to judge of Denmark by the treatment which you will see allowed to their ships in England; for from that I believe the States will take their measures.

"So far politics: now for philosophy, and pray, dear father, are not you a little too serious, when you talk of leaving the world at a time where it could not subsist, *sine fortibus bonisque tuique simillimis?* And why would you leave it without being able to give a good account of it, since you never used to leave anything at that rate? Patience has been a very good recipe ever since Job's time, and you of all mankind, (if your modesty does not suffer too much in the advice,) should apply the remedy, since you have merit enough to have that patience rewarded in spite of all that fortune can resolve against it." *Copy.* (X. 4.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [RICHARD] WARRE.

1692–3, February 3–13. Hague.—"There is a person named Clerck now at Rotterdam, represented to me as one highly disaffected, and who in all probability is lately come from France, though he pretends to have been in Italy. He designs very shortly for England, he not yet asked a passport, and I believe will endeavour to get over without one. I have advised Mr. Vander Poele, Master of the Post at The Briel, to have an eye upon him, and the Postmaster at Harwich likewise. I think it likewise my duty to advise you of the information I have received that he may be examined at Westminster, whither I hear he intends in case he escape us here." *Copy.* (X. 7.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF DORSET,] LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

1692–3, March 3–13. Hague.—"After having for some years together admitted the French, and even the Catholics of them, into all manner of conversation here, we are grown wise enough to imagine that some of them are spies: the States have sent out warrants, upon which many here, at Amsterdam and other towns of Holland, are taken, and their papers secured: and Mr. Dyckvelt, who is now at Brussels, is charged to desire the Elector of Bavaria, that the same search may be made in the Catholic Provinces.

"In Flanders we are much obliged to the bad weather, which alone has, I believe, saved Charleroi hitherto. The

great number of boats with bombs and carcasses which the French have along the Maas, and the orders their troops in garrison on that side have to be ready to march at the first warning, seem still to threaten that place, which I do not know if we can hinder them from, if the snow and wind stand neuter.

"The affairs of the Allies are better than we could reasonably expect. The Elector of Brandenbourg has informed the States that the 6,000 men, which are upon their appointment, are ready to march, and wait only their orders. The Elector of Saxony is come entirely into the Confederate interest, having signed and exchanged the Treaty upon the same foot with that made between His Majesty and the States General in '89. He expresses a great desire to do something this campaign, and will march in person with 12,000 men, as soon as the season will permit, and has already sent Count Sternberg, his Lieutenant General, before, to view and provide his magazines. The Emperor has cunningly enough made this Elector an obliging compliment in sending to Madame Neusch, his mistress, the title of Countess.

"Sweden has approved the ninth Electorate, and Mr. Horne, envoy from that Crown at Vienna, has assured the Emperor that his master will not engage with the discontented Party, or do anything to the prejudice of the Allies; so that Denmark is not likely to give much disturbance. Mr. Bonrepos has had a private audience there; however, it is thought he will scarce be able to do more than renew the Treaty of Neutrality expired in December last, and Mr. Hop, who is at Copenhagen from the States, has only obtained a promise that French Capers shall not harbour in Norway.

"There is nothing sure from Turkey but that we cannot this summer have a peace. The French Minister at the Porte has bribed high; which (as our circumstances are) we cannot do. There is a report written from thence to the Imperial Minister and to several here, that Sultan Mahomet is dead, and that the Grand Vizier and the Aga of the Janazaries are strangled by the people, who will have a peace. I beg Your Lordship's pardon that I write this to you, since I doubt the truth of it." *Copy.* (X. 10.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Pembroke.

1693, April 3. N.S. Hague.—"'Tis uncertain what methods are to be taken in Flanders till His Majesty's arrival here. We are pleased that we have Charleroi still ours, for which we are obliged to the wet weather. The design of the French to attack it seems to be now over; they having disposed of the stores and ammunition which they had upon the Maas into Namur, Dinant and Charlemont. The Marquis de Boufflers is now at Philippeville, where he has made a review of fourteen squadrons. The sea affairs of Holland are in

good posture. The Admiralties of Amsterdam and the Maas have let the States know that most of their ships are now ready for Zeeland. Your Lordship knows their privateers are usually more ready than their ships of war. Mons. d'Odyck is gone thither to hasten their preparations. We hope to do something on the Rhine; the Elector of Saxe, who gives 12,000 men effective, will do yet a better thing, which is to leave the command of them to Chauvel, an experienced General of the Duke of Zell, and pass the campaign at Frankfurt with his mistress, who is with child and designs to lie in there.

"The Emperor has obliged him by making her Countess of Ratelitz.

"The opposition made to the ninth Electorate grows daily less; Sweden's having declared for it, and the Emperor's resentments concerning it have frightened the less Princes, so that they are content to retract their *Declarationes Nullitatis*, or let them die at Ratisbon by sending no memorial to confirm them.

"One may easily perceive that this has turned the bias of Denmark: the Prince of Denmark seems mightily diverted with Holland, and stays to wait upon His Majesty's arrival here; some about him give out that he has not been used with respect enough in France. The French certainly understand good breeding. I am glad the Prince says the contrary: his resentments against France and his liking to Holland came, I believe, a fortnight since from Copenhagen. We hope Prince Louis of Baden will command on the Upper Rhine, though the great talk at Vienna is that he shall dispose affairs there, and command in Hungary, where the Turks will be very strong, and push on predestination as far as it will bear." *Copy.* (X. 19.)

GILBERT BURNET, BISHOP OF SALISBURY, to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1693, April 5 [-15]. Salisbury.—"I have received two very obliging letters from you, and with the last the box of medals was brought to me. I must humbly thank you for your great care, and beg the favour of you to give my most humble thanks to my Lord Glenorchy for the trouble he gave himself in bringing them to The Hague and his care in delivering them to yourself. I wish I knew how to answer the goodness you are pleased to have for me in a more effectual manner, but whensoever you are pleased to let me know how I can better express the value and esteem I have for you, I promise you I shall not be wanting in my utmost zeal." (II. 1.)

SWEDISH MERCHANTMEN.

[1693, after May 21. N.S.]—Reply to the memorials of Count Oxenstiern of May 14 and 21, to William III., complaining of the detention of Swedish vessels and merchandise

in September, 1692, contrary to the terms of the treaty of 1661. *French.*

Draft in Prior's handwriting. (XX. 11.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [ADAM] CARDONNEL.

1693, August 19–29. Hague.—Explaining a "little scheme" for the remedy of abuses in the granting of passports from Holland to England, which had been approved of by Secretary Trenchard. *Copy.* (X. 21.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF DORSET,] LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

1693, September 1. [N.S.]. Hague.—"'Tis confirmed on all hands that St. Brigides is taken, but it is uncertain if the Duke of Savoy will go on to besiege Pignerol, most of the general officers in a council of war having given their opinion that it is more advisable to endeavour to engage Mons. Catinat, before the detachments from Catalonia and Germany join him.

"Our campaign in Flanders is well-nigh ended. The French have suffered so much in the late battle, and by a sickness that reigns in their camp, that they can hardly attempt Charleroi: they have sent off their great cannon, and pioneers. Your Lordship will be informed of the state of our army, by the letters that come immediately thence.

"His Majesty has made the Duke of Holstein-Pleun [Plön] first Field Marshal (which charge has been void since Prince Waldeck's death): the Duke is expected here within twelve days. The Duke of Wirtembourg has the Regiment of the Guards, and is made General of the Dutch Foot. The States are very well pleased with the promotion of these two strangers, but the Prince of Frise has left the Army upon it; the Prince of Birkenfeld and Count Nassau of Sarbruck 'tis generally said, ask their *congé.*

"The business of Ratzebourg is at a stand. The King of Denmark cannot be prevailed with to make peace, and yet has no very great mind to make war. He has invested the town, yet ordered that not one bomb shall be thrown into it till he comes in person, and possibly yet defers his coming that he may be the more entreated to keep away. Some of his Ministers press him on very earnestly, which we take for a sign that France has bribed high." *Copy.* (X. 23.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1693, September 4. [N.S.]—"The Duke of Savoy loses the occasion of besieging Pignerol, and is gone to look after Mons. Catinat in the mountains, to reinforce whom the French have made a great detachment of 15,000 from the Rhine. The campaign seems over in Flanders. The Duke of Holstein-Pleune arrived yesterday at the Army, and the King is expected the 5–15 instant at Loo.

" The Danes began on Tuesday last to bombard Ratzebourg, and will not be contented with less than the demolishing the fortifications of that place, and the Lunebourgers retiring from it, till the whole matter is renewed and adjudged by the laws of the Empire." *Copy.* (X. 25.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PEMBROKE.

1693, October 10–20.—" His Majesty waits only the change of the wind to embark for England ; the convoy we expected thence is not yet arrived. The inclosed gives Your Lordship the particular of our affairs in Piedmont with which I presumed to trouble Your Lordship last post. We have no other public news. My Lord Dursley has asked and obtained his *congé* to quit Holland entirely. I know not how Fortune may dispose of me, or if she takes any care at all of such little people as I am. I am sure of Your Lordship's favour if anything should be proposed for me, and beg the continuance of your goodness." *Copy.* (X. 28.)

[GEORGE] STEPNEY to [? SIR JOHN TRENCHARD] at Whitehall.

1693, October 20. [N.S. Vienna.]—" The ill news we have received this day of Count Stratman's death makes me take the liberty of giving you this short account, with [*sic*] the character of the Imperial Court and the chief Ministers, with some guesses what change this accident may produce there.

" The Count, though in rank he was but low in the Ministry, yet by being Chancellor of the Court, that is, having the care of the business relating to the Emperor as Archduke of Austria and those other hereditary countries annexed to that title, he had the most frequent access to his person, and was honoured with the greatest part of his confidence of any of the Ministers ; and indeed had the greatest talents of capacity and zeal for executing what was necessary for His Imperial Majesty's Service, and for the public interest.

" His beginning was ordinary, having been little better than a clerk in the Duchy of Clèves, and consequently subject to the Elector of Brandenburgh, from whence he removed to the Court of Newburgh, and was entertained by the late Elector Palatine ; where, after having distinguished himself in several weighty commissions, he at last attended the present Empress at her marriage to Vienna, and through her favour and his own merit, worked himself to the greatest credit, honours and riches that a man of fortune is capable of. It is objected against him that he did this at the expense of his religion, and that finding himself well settled towards the latter end of his days, he fell into a careless luxurious way of living, as if he affected to let the world see he would enjoy the fruits of his labours.

" He was employed in France at the same time when Mr. Meinders was there, and was formerly entangled in that interest,

but since his removal to the Imperial Court and the part he had in the Peace of Nimegen, he utterly abandoned that party, and has given signal proofs of his fidelity to the House of Austria and to the Allies during this war.

"To speak of the prior of these, I mean the House of Austria, would draw me into too long a digression; it is enough to say that the crowning the King of Hungary and choosing the King of the Romans were at his advice: but, what nearer concerns me, it was by his persuasions that the Emperor first heard the Baron Görtz, President to the Landgrave of Hesse, whom His Majesty (then Prince of Orange) made use of to sound the dispositions of the Imperial Court upon his glorious enterprise of redeeming our kingdoms and Europe from slavery; and he only of all the Ministers had the confidence and management of this intrigue, the success of which created him many enemies (especially the Count of Kinsky): but it has been our greatest advantage to have found him a powerful and steady friend.

"It is below your knowledge to hear anything of my personal obligations to him, and I should be too arrogant in saying I was honoured with something that came near familiarity and friendship. The graces he showed me I ever attributed to the zeal he had to His Majesty's interest, and consequently the meanest of his servants never failed of a favourable reception.

"How the vacancy his death has made will be supplied may deserve His Majesty's reflection. The Emperor is a Prince faithful to his promises, and besides is too far engaged by point of interest, ever to start from the Alliance; but it would have been a hard matter to defeat the bigotry which priests constantly instil into the mind of a Prince so devout, if this famous Minister had not mingled some policy with religion, and supported his arguments with the credit of the Spanish Ambassador, who (true to the principle of the King he serves) has never been irreconcilable in his hatred to France and in his opposition to an universal Monarchy; which last consideration I look upon to have been the true one, why the Emperor so readily entered into a league with those they call heretics, and has continued firm in it, notwithstanding the offers France has made and the frequent solicitations of the Pope to that purpose.

"But as His Imperial Majesty is observed to be of an irresolute wavering temper, on which the last impressions ever make the deepest marks, this occasions that he is frequently torn several ways by the different inclinations of his Ministers, who in a manner governed him by turns as if each had commanded *de jour*, (to which may be attributed those delays which have ever been too visible in all the designs and enterprises of the Imperial Court); yet Count Stratman's turn came oftener than any other's did, having

the greatest ascendent over his spirit, which has proved of advantage to our affairs. But who now will succeed him in that degree of favour, or if ever His Imperial Majesty will be so liberal of his mind to any other Minister is what we are to expect with great impatience.

"The great offices of the Court are divided into several departments, whereof the chief is the Chancery of the Empire, which is committed to Count Königsegg, as Vice-Chancellor under the Elector of Mentz, who therefore presides in all conferences, and has the direction of correspondencies with foreign courts. The second Chancery is that of Bohemia, to which kingdom the provinces of Silesia and Moravia are in a manner annexed, and fall under the guidance of Count Chinsky, who is Chancellor. The third is the Chancery of the Court for the Emperor's private concerns as a Duke of Austria, to which are joined the hereditary countries thereabouts as Tyrol, Styria, Carinthia, and which made the province of Count Stratman. The fourth is the Chancery of Hungary under the Archbishop of Grann; but as the affairs of this kingdom and of Transylvania are yet in disorder, Count Chinsky seems to have the greatest share in the direction of them. Fifthly, the Chamber of Finances is committed to the care of Cardinal Collonitz, who has under him General Heusler; but this last has not that employment in such latitude as it was enjoyed by Caraffa. Sixthly, the Council Aulique, wherein all causes and matters of justice are determined, is guided by Count Ottingen, who is President thereof. Seventhly, the Council of War is the department of Count Stahremberg.

"Not to speak of the office of Court Marshal and the Council of Regency, these seven Chambers are the canals in which all affairs are dispatched according to the nature they are of. But before anything of consequence is resolved, it is debated in the Council of Conference (as they call it) where the Emperor generally presides in person, and names the points on which he will deliberate. This agrees with our Cabinet Council, to which the Emperor warns such Ministers as he thinks fit to communicate to the affairs in question. Those who generally assisted were Count Königsegg, Count Chinsky, Count Stratman, Count Stahremberg, and sometimes the Prince of Salm, Governor of the King of the Romans; Count Wallenstein, the Governor Chamberlain; Count Harrach, the Master of the Horse; and Count Ottingen, when there happened a point of law.

"I shall take the liberty of giving a short character of each of these as far as I could observe in nine months that I had the honour to reside at the Imperial Court.

"Count Königsegg has a good head and heart, and is master of great eloquence whenever he has any lucid intervals of health; but the gout, with which he is contracted in hands and feet, has rendered him almost incapable of further service,

and of having the confidence of the Emperor, which is best to be acquired by frequent attendance ; so that he may be looked upon a superannuated Minister, whose credit and creatures fall off daily. He has a quickness of fancy very youthful, but is said not to have judgment enough to serve as ballast to so high a sail ; and the freedom with which he sometimes launches into common conversation discovers too much of the secret, and frequently brings him into inconveniences. He is lavish in his expenses, which have reduced him to a low fortune, and his pressing wants may expose him to be scarce proof against a bribe well offered. He seems zealous enough for the public, but with a certain bias for Denmark, where his eldest son is now Envoy ; his second son is Canon of Cologne, and in time may prove the great favourite to the Elector. The second wife he now has is sister to the Marquis de Parella, which makes him very zealous for the interest of Savoy. He has married a daughter to a Count of Furstemberg, and I believe at bottom is no enemy to the Cardinal. He will neither gain nor lose by Count Stratman's death, having lived in terms of indifference with him without entering into faction for or against him, except what related to the difference betwixt the King of Denmark and the Elector of Hanover, to the first of which Count Königsegg seemed too particular and Count Stratman to the latter ; which will make his death much regretted at the Courts of Lunenburgh, where they will be at a loss whom now to apply to, since the greatest pillar is fallen, who supported their cause.

"The next Minister is Count Chinsky, who is well known by his negotiation at Nimeguen for a man of great application, experience and exactness, but is thought too rigid and never to be brought off from the opinion into which he first enters. He has the management of the politic part of the affairs in Hungary, and whenever the negotiation of peace with the Turks comes in play, it is likely to fall to his gui[dance], though he is loaded with having been the cause of the Emperor's letting slip some favourable opportunities of coming to an agreement, and is accused to have favoured and justified those cruel practices and persecutions which were used by Caraffa towards Eperies and other places in Upper Hungary ; and [a] certain [air] of formality and circumspection which [he] affects gives him at least the appearance of a wise and cautious Minister, and his strict friendship with Caraffa buoyed him up almost to make the balance of the Emperor's favour hang even betwixt his party and that of Count Stratman's : but since the death of that General, who spoke freely for him in some cases, where he could not with decency appear himself, Count Chinsky's interest has visibly declined and he seemed to have no further part in affairs than what naturally related to his own Chancery. What ground he may now gain as spoils

which fall from Count Stratman I know not; but I cannot wish this accident may prove of great advantage to him, since I have not much reason to think him our friend, and to the impartial I cannot accuse him of having appeared our enemy. However, it is to be apprehended, if ever he gets the mean disposal of things, the priests only will thrive the better for it, whose authority he is inclined to heighten, though the Emperor is already but too weak in that respect. In all conferences whereat he assists he is observed to be a perfect sceptic, and though the affair in dispute be of no great importance, he cannot forbear ranging his arguments *pro et con.*, and raising doubts on both sides without determining anything, so that in the conclusion nobody can find the drift of his advice, nor is much wiser for the length of his discourse; but to do him justice, if he would explain himself and were as well intentioned as he is diligent and able, I know no Minister at Vienna that might be so useful in high employment. He is a man of a plentiful fortune without children, and consequently is not liable to corruption. His ambition of being the chief made him a rival to Count Stratman, which made it remarkable that these two seldom agreed in their opinions. But not to be too prolix: if Count Chinsky upon this vacancy comes to be Master, it will be an ill omen to Schöning and his party; for I believe firmly the first advice for the violent seizure of this General proceeded from this Minister out of a private pique which he is not of a disposition to forget. This I perceived the Elector of Saxony was immediately sensible of, and could not forbear saying in haste, upon the first report of Count Stratman's death, that his affairs might suffer by it. For in truth he was a man more pliable, and (to my knowledge) it was with him that Mr. Holezbrinck (whom I have mentioned in my ordinary relations) chiefly negotiated for the enlargement of Schöning.

"I have already spoke sufficiently of Count Stratman, and therefore need only recapitulate that the Emperor has lost [his] ablest Minister and confidant; His Majesty and the Allies the greatest supporter of their cause; the Elector of Brandenburgh a subject much devoted to his interest; the Elector Palatine a creature ever grateful to his patron; the Elector of Hanover, the stiffest promoter of his new dignity; and the Elector of Saxony the person on whom he most relied for the liberty of his General. The Count has left many children to divide his estate. The eldest son was Envoy in England, and is now married to a rich heiress near Cologne. The second is a Canon at Breslau, and two more sons, who are now travelling in Italy, are likely to be provided for by spiritual preferments; his three daughters are well bestowed, one to the Ban or Viceroy of Craacy, Count Boudiani; a second to Count Stutenberg, Governor of the Province of Styria; and the third to Count Colasto.

" Count Stahremberg, famous for his defence of Vienna, seems yet to live upon the credit of that effection, and has entrance into the Council of Conference, but, I believe, does not much forward the business ; for he is one who does not usually stick to the matter in hand, and has the talent of raising whipped cream upon what the others have said without advancing anything to his own, and abounds in words which have no meaning. The officers who have dependence upon the Council of War are diligent in making their court to him, but in politics the mark is out of his mouth, and no applications are made to him, nor has he credit enough to do good or harm to our affairs. He affects being a *beau* by his dress and gallant behaviour, though, as you may imagine, he acquits himself but awkwardly at the age of seventy-four and after his hearing has almost left him. This is all I can say of him, except that he has a son, Envoy in Sweden, and the daughter lately left a widow by a son of the late General Dunnewald.

" The Prince of Salmes is a person of another figure, having acquired great confidence with the Emperor and the Empress by the care he has taken, and still continues of the education of the King of the Romans, who, having no conversation but what he furnishes him with, is likely to have his genius formed wholly according to the model which the Prince shall prescribe, and when the Emperor fails, whose life is far spun, the Government will be as good as absolute in his hands, which makes me frequently wonder no applications are made to him by His Majesty, since we have so near a prospect of his becoming the Atlas ; and as he is, he may be very useful to our affairs, for he is a man of great abilities, and sincere where he is once gained. The Prince of Dietrichstein, the General Master d'hostel, and he had formed a faction against Count Stratman, perhaps out of envy, that a person of no birth and a stranger should have a nearer access than they to the Emperor, but he was ever too hard for them, and of late had a good argument against the Prince of Salmes for his peremptorily crossing the Emperor's designs of creating a ninth Electorate in favour of the Duke of Hanover, which he opposed almost to insolence considering the dependence he has on the Emperor's family ; but now [the] Count is out of the way, he and his party are likely to rule without control.

" Count Wallenstein, the General Chamberlain, was formerly employed as an Ambassador or Envoy in England, and is very kind in the remembrance of friends he contracted there, and is well intentioned to His Majesty's interest. 'Tis pity he gives himself no more application to business, having several good talents that recommend him, and a courteous obliging behaviour, which wins the affections of all people who have to do with him ; but being old and enough at his ease, he contents himself with his ordinary attendance on

the Emperor's person without engaging himself in the Ministry. He has a son who was lately Envoy in Piedmont.

"Almost the same character may be given of Count Harrach, the Emperor's Master of the Horse, who frequently assists at the conferences, but seldom exceeds what he is obliged to by his profession.

"Count Ottingen is a perfect original; so singular he is in all his ways and actions. No man understands justice better or practices it so uncorruptly, but he is so unhewn in his manner and behaviour, and rigid in his principles, that Cato and Timon of Athens were good-natured in comparison with him. His righteousness gives him great liberty in commending himself and making severe reflections upon others, and [he] has a wife of impertinent virtue. He is ever oppreating [*sic*] the Emperor with his honesty and the knavery of his neighbours. I have near a hundred histories of his adventures, which might be good entertainment in discourse, but they are too tedious to be committed to writing. He keeps close to his charge, which he executes with great diligence, and is capable of being anything but a dissembler and a courtier." *Copy.* (X. 28.)

Matthew Prior to [James] Vernon.

1693, November 3–13. [The Hague.]—"I have heard without knowing how to help it that many Papists, who have waited the opportunity, embarked in merchant ships that sailed at the same time with His Majesty without any passes.

"I shall give a pass to Mr. Francis Roche, an Irishman—his father is of Cork—and to Patrick Roche, who pretends to be his man. They offer any security here, or would oblige themselves to appear before you, and have this one merit, that they lodged at Harris's the tailor. I write to Mr. Mackay, that they may be at least searched at Harwich, though they have rather the mien of puppies than politicians." *Copy.* (X. 42.)

Matthew Prior to [William] Blaithwayt.

1693, November 10–20. [The Hague.]—Asking for instructions how to deal with above 500 sick and wounded English soldiers, who are waiting at the Brill and Helvoet, and can only be transported at the rate of fifty or sixty in each packet boat. Has meanwhile given them 200 *gulden*, and induced the Pensioner to allow them lodging and turf. *Copy.* (X. 42.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1693, November 14–24. [The Hague.]—"We have at present no minister at either of the Northern Crowns, Vienna, Berlin,

or Ratisbon. My friend Mr. Stepney, who is at present negotiating for some Saxon troops at Dresden, may probably be fixed at the same place or sent to Sweden, or almost choose his post, having had the fortune to be placed in such a light that His Majesty has known and approved of him. The other Courts will in all appearance be very soon supplied. My having had the honour to be bred by Your Lordship, and trailed a pen here onward of four years, makes some people flatter me that I may not be forgot in this great harvest with few labourers, since Aglionby, Cresset, and Stepney, who are already working, are journeymen as I am, have about the same estates at home, and are sent to preach politics as the Apostles were on a better errand, without purse or scrip. I take it for granted that Your Lordship will mention me to Mr. Secretary Trenchard, if you think anything of this kind proper for me. I wish I may part with these chimeras for the solid blessing of being near my patron and protector in England. . . . . I should like that climate or employment preferably to any other, in which I might tend my thoughts and studies so to my dear Lord Buckhurst's future improvement, as by it ever to testify to all the world the mighty obligation I owe his father." *Copy.* (X. 43.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1693, December 4. [N.S.]—"Old Mr. Kick having given my Lord Dursley's pass (on no very good recommendation) to one Rigmaden, wrote the same post to Mr. Mackay at Harwich, that the said Rigmaden might be apprehended and examined there. Captain Robinson, Commander of the *Guirlande*, and some officers saw the said Rigmaden at Helvoet. He was disguised in a sorry sea-habit, and seemed to avoid them as much as possibly he could, upon which suspecting him they got him seized. He has owned that he is a Papist, and comes from studying in a college in Flanders: in his portmanteau were found several letters, in one of which he was commanded to go by the name of Pagett; it contained farther that old James and his wife were very ill, and unless better measures were taken for them than had been already, they would surely die of the distemper. There was another letter found about him directed to my Lord Arundel of Wardour, with advice that he should deliver it into my Lord's own hand: it appears as yet to be but white paper without any writing in it. Captain Robinson has put him on board the *Guirlande*, and will deliver him to your power at his arrival in England, having sealed his papers in order to have them examined by you. Young Kick, who is employed in distributing some sustenance to the poor soldiers, who yet lie at Helvoet, was present and assisting in Rigmaden's being seized, and gives me this account. I have let Mr. Kick senior know that Mr. Secretary is pleased to promise he will take care to have the money repaid, which

may be laid out upon the poor soldiers, and I expect Mr. Blaythwayt's order therein."

"P.S.—I hear from Stockholm that the Baron Heckeren has accommodated the difference between the States and Sweden concerning Swedish ships taken by the Hollanders, having promised reparation to be made by the States. I wish matters were as well between that Crown and us. If you have heard that they have received His Majesty's answer to the memorials Count Oxenstiern had given in, which answer my Lord Dursley gave Mr. Lilieroot and he sent to Stockholm, you know too that they are not very well satisfied with it." *Copy.* (X. 45.)

Matthew Prior to [Sir John] Trenchard.

1693, December 15–25. Hague.—"In obedience to your commands of the 5th I have waited on the Pensioner, and by his order on Mynheer Sasse, Secretary to the Admiralty of the Maas, in whose hands I have left a copy of the extract of what our ships lost on the coasts of Holland. He promises to intercede with the Admiralty to give order that our cables and anchors be sought and taken up with equal care as their own and brought over into England, where the charges shall be given in to the Commissioners of our Navy by the masters of the vessels thus employed, the Commissioners of the Admiralty having first looked over the accounts and consented to them as reasonable." *Copy.* (X. 48.)

Matthew Prior to Viscount Dursley.

1693–4, January 2–12. Hague.—"Having looked over the Papers which concern money paid to the Vaudois, I find five resolutions of the States with each a receipt at the bottom of it from Mr. Weyer or Clignett or both, as followeth :—

'1690.—Resolution of States, May 15, upon which Weyer and Clignett own to have received 20,000 and 15,000 gilders.

'Resolution of May 19, in which Weyer owns to have received 50,000 gilders.

'Resolution of August 20, in which Clignett owns to have received 60,300 gilders.

'Resolution of September 14, in which Weyer owns to have received 39,600 gilders.

'Resolution of November 20, in which Weyer owns to have received 49,750 gilders.

The second sum 5,000*l.* sterling.
The third sum 6,000*l.* ,,
The fourth sum 4,000*l.* ,,
The fifth sum 5,000*l.* ,,

"So that the four last sums make 20,000*l.* sterling. The first appears to have been likewise for the Vaudois, as I remarked before; it is signed by Clignett and Weyer. We find an

acquittance signed by Mr. Clignett for 200 gilders, 'which,' says he, 'was what rested of 20,000*l.* sterling, which,' says he, 'was what His Majesty had given the Vaudois,' and for which William Weyer, merchant of Amsterdam, 'had given his acquittances.'

"We have my Lord Shrewsbury's letter of the 4th March, '89, by which he informs Your Lordship that His Majesty accords the sum of 200,000 *livres* to the Vaudois." (X. 49.)

THE SAME to the SAME.

1693–4, January 5–15. Hague.—"Since my last I have been with Mr. Clignett at Leyden, and having conferred with him concerning the papers I mentioned in my last, find that the five sums together make the 20,000*l.* for the Vaudois; for that as one has 35,000 gilders, the other [receipt] is for such a sum as makes that 50,000. I did not know that before, not having the honour to serve Your Lordship when the thing itself was transacted, nor to have been in the least informed of it since." *Copy.* (X. 50.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PEMBROKE.

1693-4, January 19–29. Hague.—You will see by the enclosed memorial "that France really desires a peace with us, though it chicanes a little in the way of asking it. All our letters from the frontier agree that the French garrisons are destitute of bread and money; upon which we may doubtless soon see more memorials of the same nature with this.

"Things here go on as usually, sure and slow. The States are recruiting their troops with great diligence, and have granted besides other taxes the hundredth penny twice this year, as they did the last." *Copy.* (X. 53.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1694, March 9. N.S. Hague.—"The persons whom you find described at the end of this letter are represented to the Pensioner of Holland, and from him to me, as sent into England with a design against His Majesty. I have yet seen no such, but have taken order if ever they come either to Rotterdam or The Briele, to have them seized. I have grounds to suspect two others, of which I have advised Mr. Mackay. I send you a copy of my letter to him because possibly you may hear further of the persons from him." *Copy.* (X. 54.)

Enclosure.

MATTHEW PRIOR to MR. MACKAY.

1694, March 9. N.S. Hague.—"I yesterday gave two passes to persons whom I have reason to suspect not well affected. One is named Robert Manly; he lives at Rotterdam, was formerly a servant to Mr. Chudleigh, envoy here, and passes

to England (as he says) on his own private concerns. I have nothing more against him than that he has been lately in Flanders, and may probably be employed in some correspondence our enemies may hold in England; he being a known Jacobite. You will do very well therefore to search very diligently, if he has no papers about him, not mentioning whence this advice comes.

"The other is named Francis Clay; pretends to have deserted the French service from Catalogne, but brings a very improbable account of so long a journey. He has a red head of hair very like a peruke; if it proves to be such, you will think him to be a person to be suspected, since one does not generally choose one's peruke of that colour; I have reason to suspect him in case he should have any peruke in his pocket. I have given no pass to the two persons described on the other side."

[The description is as follows:—] "John Peg, born in Lorraine, a short man, has by nature black hair, and wears a light peruke, a red coat, and a blue waistcoat under it; is old about forty-four *à* forty-five years. He is in company with an Irish or an Englishman, which is a little taller, dressed in black with a blue waistcoat, having short curled hair not longer than to the ears, is old between thirty and forty years."

"If by any chance you find such, though they have my Lord's pass (for Mr. Vander Poele may possibly have given it to them before a letter sent to him this night may reach him) arrest them, for they are dangerous persons." *Copy.* (X. 54.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

[1694, March or April.]—"What we are most talking of is the choice of a Bishop of Liége. The French, who have found ways to get that election deferred till the 20–30 April, have certainly more interest there than we are willing to believe, and may get the Cardinal of Bouillon elected, though the Allies deny him passports to go thither. Mr. Dyckvelt is gone thither to manage the States' interest: the common voice is that they are for the Elector of Cologne (who seems to stand very fair in this conjuncture), though at bottom Your Lordship will judge, both the States and the Elector of Brandenburg would rather have a private person than either the Elector of Cologne, the Master of the Teutonic Order, or the Bishop of Breslau, whose families as well as their relation to that of Austria might, as affairs may turn hereafter, make them too potent princes to prove peaceable neighbours. De Meyer, their present Dean, may probably be the man, if the Allies' party prevail; since their common interest may centre well enough in him, who is an honest man of no great family, and an enemy to France.

"All is in flame and fire at Dresden, and the Elector of Saxe will have his General Schöning again or will recall his troops. All the world sees the Emperor did a foolish thing in letting that affair hang so long in suspense, and the Elector to have it determined will do a thing twice foolisher. The accommodation the Imperial Court offers now is to give Schöning his liberty and let him serve the Venetians; and this we hope may content our hero, if he will be ruled by his interest or his mistress.

"The French threaten Piedmont: they say they will pass the mountains this month and besiege Coni and bombard Turin at one time. The Duke of Savoy has been at Milan where a great council of war has been held, and we may hope well enough from that side if we can but get our Germans out of their winter quarters in any tolerable time, and hinder them from plundering so very merrily when they are out.

"The French will have fifty sail of ships-of-war in the Mediterranean, whereof ten will be first and second rates; I hope they know this at Whitehall.

"I sent Your Lordship this trifle of a book because the satire at the end is said to be Britean's*, and add to it a song made by a much worse poet. I have made some reflections on my last letter to Your Lordship, in which I am afraid I was too presumptuous in representing the state of my own poor affairs. I beg Your Lordship to pardon it as written to him who has been my patron and protector from my childhood." *Copy.* (X. 56.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to MR. WOLSELEY, at Brussels.

1694, April 13–23. Hague.—"I have formerly advertised the office of one Clerk, who went over into England, as being a person much suspected to hold a dangerous correspondence. The same Clerk was the last week, (I know not upon what suggestion) stopped at Harwich, and upon some letters he produced from persons of credit was released again, and came over in the last packet. At Harwich he got time from the negligence of the officer to burn several papers, and at his coming to Rotterdam was surprised to find that several papers he had given to an officer, a Spaniard who came from England the packet before, were not delivered as he had expected. This officer, being a Spaniard born, now in the service has a brother who is actually of the Elector of Bavaria's family. He is just now come from Spain, by way of England, is a middle-sized man, black: if by his description you can find out this person and seize Clerk's letters before he reaches Brussels, (I think Clerk lives at Bruges), we may probably discover the correspondence. These I had from Dr. du Can, physician to the hospitals, and it is my duty to give them to you as entire as I got them: it being undoubted that Clerk is a violent Jacobite and

* Nicholas Breton is doubtless the satirist referred to.

employed in frequent voyages to England for no good." *Copy.* (X. 58.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1694, April 30. [N.S.]—" By an express from Dresden we have an account that the Elector of Saxony died there the 27 April—7 May of the same distemper, and almost in the same manner, as his Countess. This may give some change to our affairs on that side, since his brother and successor is in good English a resty brute, of too much stubbornness to be convinced by any man, and too much ferocity to be softened by any woman : a true Dane, and governed by one of that nation who is a little too partial to the French interest.

" The French begin to move in Flanders, and letters from France are all filled with the misery and desolation of that kingdom, which is really very pressing.

" This letter may end like my last, with my prayers for Your Lordship's health and happiness.

" *Spare Dorset's sacred life, decerning Fate,*
" *And Death shall march through courts and camps in state,*
" *Emptying his quiver on the vulgar great :*
" *Round Dorset's board let Peace and Plenty dance,*
" *Far off let Famine her sad reign advance,*
" *And War walk deep in blood through conquered France.*
" *Apollo thus began the mystic strain,*
" *The Muses' sons all bowed, and said Amen.*"

Copy. (X. 59.)

The Earl of Pembroke to Matthew Prior.

1694, May 16 [–26]. London.—Complimentary letter, desiring a continuation of their correspondence. (II. 3)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1694, June 1. N.S. Hague.—" It is as natural for us to mistake as to reason or to see ; so I do not blush to recant an opinion I have some time embraced that I had already all that obligation to Your Lordship which a poor man could possibly owe his patron. Your Lordship's letter to me convinces me I was in the wrong, and now I only know that it is as hard for me to comprehend how great Your Lordship's future favours will be as to number how many your past have been. I would fain write on this subject, but I really cannot with any success. I find no expressions of it in any language I understand : (and one would think Your Lordship has taken sufficient care to have me instructed in the best).

What Cowley imagines only of Theron's liberality is, in matter of fact, true as to Your Lordship :

'Thy bounties to conceal or tell
Is equally impossible.'

"'Tis all an immeasurable abyss ; and my gratitude like St. Austin's piety is lost in wonder and veneration."

Postscript.—"I shall endeavour to get Your Lordship originals of the hands you mention, from Antwerp or Brussels. I have seen one of Teniers' here but it is excessively dear. My Lord Dursley's memoir by which he takes leave of the States came over to-day. I have only a verbal order to stay here till my Lord Faulkland comes over, so they have made me a minister without one syllable of a commission to act by ; and ordered me to receive all their letters without one penny of money to pay their postage." *Copy.* (X. 60.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694, May 29 [–June 8]. Whitehall.—Have shown your letter of the 1st inst. to the Duke of Shrewsbury, "who thinks that there must be somebody entrusted with the care of passes, and that nobody is so fit for it as yourself, who have all along done it. The only thing is to make your signing of as good authority as your late Lord's, that it may not be questioned at The Brill, or Helvoetsluys, and that His Grace thinks must be ordered on that side, and by his commands I have intimated so much by this post to Mr. Blathwayt, so that I take it for granted it will be done, and when it is ordered there, if it be necessary, my Lord will take care that your vouchers be unquestionable at Harwich. You must concert with Mr. Blathwayt how you are to style yourself in the frontispiece, if that be a necessary ingredient in a passport.

"This is the first day I have seen Mr. Schweinfurt since his arrival, but he has brought no books with him. He remembers you bid him call at Rotterdam for something ; but he did not find Mr. Kick at home." (II. 4.)

Matthew Prior to [William] Blathwayt.

1694, June 1–11. Hague.—"I am promised the Convention between Holland and Sweden, and shall send it to you in a day or two. I have also a box from Mrs. Vander Brent, which I shall likewise forward by the first sure occasion.

"I know not what change may happen to my affairs upon my Lord Faulkland's death, but take it for granted that they will prosper in your hands. If I am to reside here any time, I presume either some order to me or letter to the president of the week or to the Pensioner will be necessary : for having taken my leave as my Lord Dursley's secretary, I know not whose I must say I am, if I give in any memorial or ask any favour. I wish I might call myself Secretary, or

Agent, or what you think proper, on better grounds than Kick calls himself Consul: but being at present like Sosia in the comedy—*sumne ego, necne?*—is a very pertinent question for me to ask myself. 'Tis by your kindness, Sir, that I am to be something, and probably to have some foundation laid to my small fortune. I have represented this to my Lord Chamberlain, who commands me to assure you that the kindness you are pleased to show me shall be looked on as done to himself, and if anything that concerns me is to be advanced on the other side, His Lordship adds it shall have all his aid and assistance.

"I am persecuted by the *réfugiés* about passports as much as they are by their *Grand Louis* on a better account: and like Orpheus I shall be torn in pieces by the women, except you are pleased to instruct me what I am to do, and in whose name I am either to let them go or hinder them. You will, Sir, I hope, pardon your man of one business, and if just in this conjuncture of my life I am troublesome, I will remain all the rest of it with all possible gratitude and respect, etc." *Copy.* (X. 62.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1694, June 5–15. Hague.—"I hope my Lord Duke has his books, which have been so long coming that if, according to Becker, there be but one Devil, he may be dead in this while." *Copy.* (X. 63.)

—— to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, June 8–18. London.—Informing him that he has seen a letter from Holland to a person at Court stating that "quelques libertins, ennemis cachés du Roi," are resorting to The Hague, and that Prior is not likely to know enough of these "esprits français," to be on his guard against their designs. If Lord Falkland had lived he would have warned him and forbidden their resort thither. *French.* (II. 6.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to MR. KNIPE, second master of Westminster School.

1694, June 8–18. Hague.—"In obedience to the commands of my lord and patron I recommend his eldest son Mr. Berkeley to your care and protection, and am very glad of the occasion, as well to express my veneration for the school and my respect to my masters there, as to show the great duty and obligation I owe this young nobleman's family by endeavouring to have him placed where he may have an education worthy of it. My Lord's public affairs have kept his family till now in Holland, which is an excuse why you had not your scholar much sooner, and a reason why he must redeem his time. He is already as far advanced in Latin as the best masters he could find here and his strict application to the French

would permit; so that if he be not so thoroughly versed in the classic authors as some of your little Doctors in the Fifth Form, he understands pretty well History and Geography, and is master of a language which in spite of all that Cicero or Seneca can do will be universal, and by consequence must be studied. It is at Westminster he must take that tincture of the ancients, and make those improvements in his own language which no other place can give him. I know he will see younger boys much before him in that way; you will find, however, that he has too much fire and emulation in his temper to let him stay long behind his neighbours, and such extraordinary natural parts as will soon enable him to overtake them. I could enlarge very much in his praises, but instead of making his panegyric I am to have him taught to make one. I assure you only that he has wit enough to answer to the great genius of the school I recommend him to, and to make him as famous before a House of Commons at five and twenty as I hope he will be at fifteen before an election at Westminster.

"Mr. Berkeley writes a good hand and, I am sure, must not lose it under you. He has the principles of Arithmetic, for the practice of which it is absolutely necessary that some of his hours be set aside with the master who comes (I think) thrice a week to the school.

"For Greek, as you please; he may have some taste of it, if it will discourage him to be kept from it; otherwise his improvement in Latin is the main thing to aim at, for he has not a great deal of time before him, and will be a man before we are aware of it.

"His whole education is left to you by his good parents, who love him too well to humour him, and will absolutely have him instructed and not flattered; and we doubt not in the least but that in two years under your hands he will have solid learning enough to come abroad again, and give strangers an idea of the greatest school in his own country, and possibly of any other through which he shall travel.

"If you still take boarders, I presume my Lord designs Mr. Berkeley shall be of the number. I have warranted the success of this whole matter to my Lord; so you will be pleased sometimes at your leisure to honour me with a line concerning it, that I may constantly answer your letters, and take what care I can of Mr. Berkeley at this distance, and which I beseech you to take double since I cannot be nearer him. I am to represent from his father and mother (the best that any son was ever blest with) how nearly this child's education touches them and how heartily they ask you to enter into his interest; and (if it be not too bold to mix my own requests to theirs), if I may in the least have merited in the society or am remembered by my masters, I humbly beg that this young gentleman may profit by it."

Postscript.—"I do not trouble the Doctor, having only my most obedient service to send him, and my wishes for the continuance of his health, which I ought to do for the public good if I had no particular obligations to him." *Copy.* (X. 64.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1694, June 12 [–22]. London.—"I am very desirous not to lose a part in your friendship which you were so kindly pleased to afford me. . . . . I hope you will sometimes let me hear from you. . . . . I will yet venture further, to desire you to send me word if there be any true French wine of any kind to be had at The Hague. If so, I will send you word (when I know the sort and price) what quantity I desire, and hope the captain of some yacht will not deny me the bringing it safe hither. I can only add that if you can gratify me therein, I will not deal with you as a noble person did lately with my Lady Dursley." (II. 7.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694, June 12 [–22]. Whitehall.—"I have yours of the 5th and 8th, and have likewise heard from Mr. Blathwayt that you have commenced your first degree in the ministry; may you go on and prosper! The next thing we have to do for your service is to get you a warrant for your privy seal, as well for your being allowed reasonable extraordinaries as for your 20s. *per diem;* and that shall be as soon as we know from what time it is to commence, for which I have writ to Mr. Blathwayt by this post.

"My Lord Duke [of Shrewsbury] has received your books and gives you thanks for them. You seem to have a mind to write to His Grace. You not only may do it, but in your station yon ought to do it, and that as constantly as any of the other foreign ministers; and when you have made your compliments, you must let him know in your own hand all that passes. Mr. Stepney does it with great exactness, and I don't doubt but you will make yourself as remarkable; and so, my grave lesson being finished, I take my leave." (II. 8.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1694, June 12–22. Hague.—"The packet with the mail of Friday sennight being taken, and the letters at the bottom of the sea, has saved Your Lordship the reading a long letter from your young minister at The Hague.

"The States received this morning an express. The armies are within three leagues of each other, ours being removed a little further towards Tirlemont, and the French advanced.

Our forragers have taken some few prisoners, who agree that the enemy's horse are in a bad condition.

"The French have passed the Rhine at Philipsburg with about 40,000 men, with design to ruin the Bergstraes. The Saxon troops are at length agreed for, and we are promised they shall march presently, so that if they (who are 12,000) come up in time to strengthen Prince Louis, who has now about 26,000, we may be in a condition to oppose them.

"I told my Lord and patron in the last I wrote to him (and which I presume miscarried), that upon my Lord Falkland's death the King had appointed me to do his business here, and had given me the title of his Secretary, which without advancing me something is only giving me leave to lay out sometimes eight, sometimes twelve pounds a week for letters, for the payment of which I am to solicit the Treasury a year hence, and get it perhaps in tallies, if it were in my Lord Nottingham's time, who would neither propose for me nor oppose against me. Patience! but as it is I hope Sir Fleetwood Shepherd, knight, will ask my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury (for whose kindness to me on Your Lordship's account I am infinitely obliged) if His Grace ever heard of a professed panegyric poet that was able to advance two guineas to the public." *Copy.* (X. 68.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1694, June 12–22. Hague.—"You are sure to be again plagued with me, because you obliged me yesterday, as with a common beggar, because you relieved him last time you met him in the street. Mr. Blathwayt has (you know) recommended me by letter to the Pensioner; I have recourse to the States as His Majesty's Secretary, and as such pay sometimes above a hundred gilders a week for letters. So far all is well, but you remember what Isaac said: *Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the ram for the offering?* Pray don't give me Abraham's repartee; but be pleased to advise me, if I may not justly desire some money may be advanced, since in all these affairs Mr. Blathwayt turns me over to you.

"You will guess how far my stock will reach in these matters, it being (as you, my father, ought to know) about two hundred pounds, a sum which being lent the public will do His Majesty a world of service.

"I must desire you to advise and assist me in procuring a privy seal for my appointments from the 1st November, N.S., that I may dun the Treasury and bring in my extraordinaries already disbursed in form and manner as my forefathers." *Copy.* (X. 69.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694, June 15[-25]. Whitehall.—Acquainting him with the orders made with regard to passports, and asking for

suggestions as to their improvement. Mr. Frankland reports a complaint made by the commanders of packet-boats, "that the two ducatoons so rigorously demanded at The Brill for being put into a pass is the reason or pretence that many make use of not to pay their passage, which they stand up for as being *pro Rege*, and urge that where there is but 12*s*. to be had, it is more due for bringing them over than for a bare leave to do it; but if I were to decide this controversy between you, I fear I should please neither side, for my determination would be, where there is so little left as is next to nothing, both the King and his Secretary should lose their right. But if you won't allow me to be a judge, admit me still to be," etc. (II. 9.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1694, June 19–29. Hague.—"There is something more mysterious in your honouring me with a letter than in all the prophecies of our good friend Sir Fleetwood. A person who has long been Ambassador with the greatest success has seldom condescended to write to a young secretary; and I believe till now a Commissioner of the Treasury never began first with a minister *per interim* abroad; but so it has pleased your goodness to act, and hereafter I shall not wonder that it is unbounded, but rather receive the blessing and be satisfied than presume saucily to inquire into the causes of it: and now, since you are pleased to honour me with your friendship, I will tell you one thing as a secret; that it is very probable you will spoil me by encouraging me, and I may soon have too good an opinion of myself if I am looked upon so favourably by a man whose judgement all the world allows to be unquestionable. I have delivered your letter to Mr. Lelienrothe, and by it gained the honour of his acquaintance. I neither see from him or Mons. Lenthe any new proposals tending towards a peace; I think there will be nothing more of that kind offered, till this deciding campaign be over, and *Pax quaeritur bello* was never so true as now. When Count Kaunitz comes from Vienna, we shall know what terms the Emperor requires; that Minister may yet defer his journey something longer, if want of money be the reason of his having deferred it thus long.

"The armies are encamped still, (as your last Flanders letters informed you they were), ours at Roosbeeck by Tirlemont, the French at St. Tron, and two little rivers betwixt them. His Majesty has ordered bridges and boats to be ready, so that if the Enemies retire towards Liége, which probably they design, we shall salute them at parting at Rotterdam.

"I am told there is true French wine. Within three days I shall be able to give you an account of that matter." *Copy.* (X. 71.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, July 5. [N.S.]—"I do not ask Your Grace's pardon for not having written to you, on your being Secretary of State, Duke or Knight of the Garter: on the contrary I pretend to make a merit of my silence. I really thought it too presumptuous for me to add a letter to the multitude Your Grace has received on these subjects from men of the greatest worth and quality, and was afraid to be impertinent since I could only say that I was glad of all this in my own particular, when all the nation is so in general. It is glad indeed; my Lord, it ought to be so when in that great station where you are it sees a man too good to be tempted by any thing but steady virtue and too great to enter into any interest but that of his country. That Your Lordship receives new titles at this time is yet another national good; it is, in the midst of a war with France, to tell our enemies that the English family their nation most dreaded formerly is yet in its pristine glory, and it is to add honour to the Order of the Garter to have it given to such a subject of our own as may make our Sovereign's allies ambitious of it. For my own interest indeed, and to act like a barefaced courtier I ought to congratulate Your Lordship's return to the Secretaryship. We young politicians begin to hope well of our future labours when men of your merit and honours condescend to be our masters; and the glory of managing a pen under the Duke of Shrewsbury now will be as great as that of having drawn a sword heretofore under his ancestors. Your Grace will excuse my growing a little florid, and lay the blame upon the grandeur of the subject: it should indeed have been treated in verse, but I despaired of coming up to the height of it; and would rather have Your Grace esteem me an indifferent secretary than know me to be a bad poet." *Copy.* (X. 77.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, July 9. [N.S.] Hague.—"I send Your Grace the copy of an order of which the Pensioner sends the original by one way and by another an authentic copy of it, taken by me, here, to Vice-Admiral Hopson, so that he may be sure to receive either the one or the other. The Pensioner and the Secretaries of the Admiralties here are of opinion that it is necessary to our sea affairs that a more frequent and regular communication be established as to what regards our convoys and cruisers, and that I should be instructed in these points from England, so as from time to time to be able to inform them here as to the number of ships we have out, and where they are, for that from this side very often they could send advices necessary for our Commanders' knowledge, if they knew where in probability such advices might find them. On this side they say I shall have an account of their ships, as well of the time and occasion of their going out, as of

the stations they are to keep. Mr. de Wilde, Secretary to the Admiralty of Amsterdam, gives me this enclosed list, and the route the ships therein mentioned are to take, which (Your Grace observes) does no way contradict the King's order, for that as many of these twelve ships shall join Vice-Admiral Hopson as shall be judged sufficient to make a squadron strong enough to meet Bart,* which will be proportioned to the number Vice-Admiral Hopson shall have, to make about twelve in all, at least more than ten, the number mentioned in the order; the rest of the Dutch to cruise as may be judged convenient, of which I shall send Your Grace an account as I may have it from the Admiralties here." *Copy.* (X. 72.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1694, July 7–17. Hague.—"Nine of the Dutch squadron are already gone out to join ours; the other three, being of that squadron which were lately ill-treated by De Bart, are not yet in a condition to follow, but will be in few days. Of this I have written to my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury, as likewise of Mr. de Wild's opinion that some of the Dutch ships may be spared to act separately. I do not perceive but that the Dutch in general bear their late losses with the constancy of the old Romans. They have prattled a little at Amsterdam, and the peacemakers there look on that business as near done.

"The Prince and Stadtholder of Fries[land] has lately been there. He is come hither, and is going with his Princess and her sister to a barony he has between Gorcum and Schonhoven." *Copy.* (X. 76.)

The DUKE OF SHREWSBURY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, July 10 [–20]. Whitehall.—"I . . . have acquainted the Commissioners of the Admiralty with what the Pensioner proposes about a mutual communication in relation to convoys and cruisers, which I don't doubt but they will approve of.

"Paul Brissac, a French gentleman, having lived some time in the English plantations in America, and done considerable service against the French in those parts, and coming now to complain of the injury done him some time since by a Dutch privateer, who seized his effects contrary to all justice on board an English ship, it is Her Majesty's pleasure that you give him what assistance you can towards his obtaining a reparation according to the equity of his cause, which I leave to him more fully to instruct you in." *Signed.* (II. 11.)

The SAME to the SAME.

1694, July 17 [–27]. Whitehall.—"A complaint being brought to the Council (whereof the enclosed is a copy) against a

* *I.e.*, the celebrated naval commander, Jean Bart, originally a corsair, of Dunkirk.

Dutch man-of-war called the *Dolphin* for abusing some Custom House officers in the river, and the ship having sailed before I could speak with the captain of her (as was directed), the Council have since thought fit that the information should be sent into Holland, and a fitting representation be made of it there, that such an insolence may not go unpunished, but that the offenders be called to a strict account for the affront put upon their Majesties' authority in the violence used towards their officers while employed in discharge of their duty." *Signed.* (II. 13.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694, July 17[-27]. Whitehall.—" Yesterday I received yours of the 6th inst. I think I know Charles Macartie, and if it be the same, I suppose his coming over will be of no great consequence."

" As to the letter of advice sent you by an unknown hand, I have been ruminating upon it. I once thought of taking notice of it to Blancard (which I have opportunities enough to do), but since he has never mentioned anything like it to me, I know not whether I should do you any service in it. Solomon with all his wisdom does not resolve that difficulty whether one should answer a fool according to his folly, but gives his reasons *pro* and *con*. A man that pleases himself with ill-natured admonitions that he can't keep in, while he passes for one unknown, perhaps may think no more of it; but if he finds himself hunted out and discovered, he may think himself under a necessity of justifying it, and whether he does that well or ill, one may have one's quiet discomposed by it. He that accuses me to myself will have enough to do to have the better of me, but if I'll challenge him before a judge, I may be very innocent and yet have but a chance for being declared so. You may therefore guess at my opinion of the matter. But it being your concern, perhaps you may have better considered it in another [*sic*], and if you think it fit, I'll speak to Blancard in the way you would have me, and if it be worth while, I don't doubt but to make you rightly understand one another.

" In the meanwhile I hope you are above being disturbed at such a greeting, nor do I think it worth much enquiry who it is that is so officious, at least that it should take wind you are in any concern about it. Some that don't love Blancard would be glad to see you at variance with him, but I don't see of what use it will be to you to enter into their sentiments. Many of them have not much more to lose, and therefore their quarrels are of no great consequence; but any other that shall thrust himself in among them may (as George Porter phrased it) meet now and then with a random kick. In short, if the advice be good, one would take the hint and say no more of it; if it [be] misdirected, let the man have his letter again when he calls for it.

"As to your style you would be informed in—*May it please Your Grace* was used by our forefathers; but I think *My Lord* passes well enough in this generation, and a syllable or two is well saved.

"Your privy seal is ordered to commence from November 1st, but we are not yet resolved upon what paper to write the warrant; for we have a Stamp Act that makes everybody ridiculously cautious: but we shall have the Judges' opinions within two or three days." (II. 12.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, August 3. [N.S.] Hague.—Has acquainted the Pensioner with the complaint against the *Dolphin*, which will be heard by the Admiralties. "Most of the officers and seamen of this unhappy ship are lost; it being the vessel which perished some time since in company with the *Rotterdam* on the coasts of Zeeland: and the captain himself still under examination for his ill conduct on that occasion." *Copy.* (X. 80.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, July 31 [–August 10]. Whitehall.—"As for Debordes, if he be a dangerous man, I despair of seeing him here, since it is unknown in what ship he comes over, or where he is like to land. If it prove to be one rogue more got into the herd, we know not how to help it."

"I must thank you for your news, and should think myself as much obliged for it if you did not give yourself the trouble to write it with your own hand." (II. 16.)

The DUKE OF SHREWSBURY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, July 31 [–August 10]. Whitehall.—"I send you enclosed a copy of Vice-Admiral Hopson's letter which I received this day from the Admiralty. The use to be made of it is to insinuate as you have occasion, that it would contribute much to the common good of the service if the ships employed against De Bart were clean and better sailors, and acquaint the Pensioner with it, who may think it of consequence to get some of these ships changed for others that will be more useful." *Signed.* (II. 15.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, August 7–17. Hague.—I informed Mr. Vernon last post that I had given copies of the list of our cruisers to the northward into the Pensioner's hands, which he had forwarded to the Admiralties of Amsterdam and the Maas. "I have since laid before him the substance of Your Grace's letters of the 31st July, with a copy of that from Vice-Admiral Hopson of the 29th, upon which the Pensioner writes to Mr.

de Wilde now at Amsterdam; and if that Admiralty be in a condition to send any light frigates to Vice-Admiral Hopson, or change any of those already with him for others that are cleaner, he commands me to assure Your Grace it shall be done."

"I told the Pensioner of the two ships sent to the Straits of which I ought to have been able to give an account in England: he could only answer that the Admiralties thought that communication should only regard the ships sent northward. I urged as plainly as I could that there was no reason to have understood or made any restriction, and for the future the communication will be general. Of this I have likewise spoken to Mr. Sasse at Rotterdam, and will do so to Mr. de Wilde, who will be at The Hague about the end of the week.

"I am glad Your Grace approves of the States' resolution upon the complaint I made. I have spoken to the Admiralties, I hope, so effectually as that their particular orders may be given to the officers under their distinct jurisdictions so effectually as to hinder such insolences for the future.

"The Pensioner and Secretary of the Admiralty of Rotterdam complained of some abuses on this side from some of our officers. I desired them, if there was any ground for such a complaint, that it might be fairly drawn up, and that I would lay it before Your Lordship, and promised to have all abuses of that kind redressed on our side.

"That Heaven and Earth might witness bear
That Justice stood by Marie's throne,
Nor could they doubt if right from her
On others' subjects should be shown,
When they reflected with what care
She asked it for her own."

Copy. (X. 81.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694, August 10 [–20]. Whitehall.—"If you think I can answer all the questions that a versed man can ask about passes, I must tell you you are mistaken. All I know is that John Mackye stops whom he will at Harwich, and whom he pleases he lets go; and you may do so at The Brill if you can. It has been an old complaint on this side and that against yachts, merchant-men and convoys that they smuggle passengers. The Admiralty have been told of it, and promise a remedy, but the current of iniquity is too strong and bears all down before it; one must, however, struggle, and when one catches an offender one must make him pay his forfeit.

"Your Debordes has been here, and unless we had his charge as well as the man, we don't know what to say to him. The Emperor's resident has appeared with him: he did it in respect to a broad seal at his commission, for I am confident he knows no more of him; and we have let him go in deference to His Excellency's character." (II. 18.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, August 14 [–24]. Whitehall.—"You are very merry with the commissions sent you by Bob the envoy. If you don't like to be put upon those searches, you may delegate them to Abraham Kick, who may do it *sans conséquence*. I find him very desirous to thrust himself into business, and if he can't get something that no body else will meddle withal, I don't know what will become of him." (II. 20.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, August 28 [-September 7]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Smith has not yet brought your bill of extraordinaries, and when he does you may be sure it will meet with no delay here, and I believe Mr. Montague will be as friendly to you at the Treasury as he is to Mr. Stepney, who does not labour under the arrears that some others of our foreign ministers are to be pitied for. I suppose you will put your former allowance of 500*l.* into your own extraordinaries, for that, my Lord Dursley thinks, will be the best way. The ministry, I hope, won't prove so poor a profession as you imagine it at present, and you may be assured of all the helps we can give to reconcile you well together." (II. 21.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF DORSET,] LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

1694, September 10. N.S. Hague.—"We begin now to think there will be no great thing done this campaign in Flanders, the French are retired on the other side of Courtray, have a great many fortified towns on that side under the cannon of which they can avoid battle. The season is far gone, our pioneers sent to their towns, and (in all appearance), except His Majesty can fall on the French rear at parting, he will save his army and content himself with the honour of having saved Maastricht and Liége, as of having shut up and fatigued his enemy the whole campaign.

"The rest is all my own affairs. My Lord Dorset has been pleased to favour them since I was ten year old, so at nine and twenty I need make no apology for my troubling him with them. I have represented to Your Lordship that the King has made me his secretary here till he thinks good to name another minister, which adds a good deal of authority to very little merit, and has given me much credit, but as yet not one penny of money. However, it sets me in very good light, and I doubt not but Your Lordship's continued favours to me will keep me in it."

Desires Lord Dorset's recommendation of him to Lord Portland and the Duke of Shrewsbury that he may be thought of when His Majesty fills the post he supplies *per interim*. *Copy.* (X. 84.)

The Duke of Shrewsbury to Matthew Prior.

1694, September 4 [–14]. Whitehall.—"If enquiry be made what orders are given about protecting their [the Dutch] ships employed in the herring fishing, you may answer that the orders are as usual in that particular: but in reality the places where our people fish on the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk are looked upon to be distinct, and not to lie in common to strangers; so that the stations of our convoy on this service will be like to be at a greater distance from the Dutch fishery than that any considerable assistance can be expected from them: which I only tell you for your own information, and don't think it proper you should make further use of it, but only to express in general terms that it is not to be doubted but either side will give one another the mutual succour they ought to do." (II. 22.)

Matthew Prior to [James] Vernon.

1694, September 11–21. Hague.—"Here is a famous *père de l'oratoire*, his name Vasere, just come from France, whether with a design to change his religion, as he pretends, or to be a spy, as some imagine, is yet uncertain. He is a man of good learning, and keeps company with such here. I have had the curiosity to talk with him; he answers very frankly to any questions put to him in discourse; talks very particularly of the miseries of France, that more have died in Paris these six last months than have done upon an usual computation in two years; that the premier Président de Paris said in his hearing, *Hélas! tout le royaume est devenu un grand hôpital;* and that Monsieur has been forced to break off his table three times this year for want of money to buy daily provisions; that neither the Dauphin or Mons. de Luxembourg are very well in Court; and the Grand Monarch grown so gouty, peevish and superstitious, (three excellent qualities) that nobody knows what to do with him. I know not if anything of this is worth acquainting His Grace with, or if His Grace would have me ask him any thing which may be thought for their Majesties' service.

"I have satisfied the Pensioner in what regards the Dutch herring fishers being protected by our men-of-war in such a manner as His Grace commanded me, and to inform you of my having done so is (I take it) something modester than to trouble my Lord Duke with a letter only to say I had done so. You will please to lay the contents of this before His Grace." *Copy.* (X. 86.)

W. Smythe to Matthew Prior.

1694, September 28 [–October 8]. Inner Temple.—Recommending him to employ Mr. Powys in his financial transactions with the Treasury; he "is a man of great diligence, skill, integrity and ability, and will always be near to attend Mr.

Montague in your business, and one who I know is not mercenary, and will be very punctual in his correspondences. He does all Mr. Cresset's business, and, I believe, very much to his satisfaction." (VIII. 5.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, October 19–29. Hague.—" His Majesty was yesterday morning in the Council of State, where having read and approved the State of the War for the next year he went into the Assembly of the States General, to whom the Council of State presented the State of the War, which according to custom is sent to the several Provinces to be by them consented to and sent back to the States General for their confirmation. It consists in their keeping on foot the same troops, in their raising recruits to render their regiments complete, and adding to their artillery.

" His Majesty's convoy will be strengthened by seven or eight Dutch vessels. My Lord Carmarthen is gone down to give all necessary orders for his voyage." *Copy.* (X. 88.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, November 9. N.S. Hague.—" Whilst the Duke of Shrewsbury is Secretary of State, the least have access to him, and the meanest are relieved. 'Tis on this account that I dare write immediately to Your Grace on so inconsiderable a business as that of my fortune. Whilst the Court was here I took the boldness to represent to my Lord Portland and Mr. Blathwayt that whenever His Majesty pleased to supply the ministry here, I had no other pretension than that of throwing myself in the packet-boat and making the best of my way for England ; that, if I was to be left here, it was no way proper for me in this post to scramble at ordinaries with Switzers or French Protestants ; that a little house this winter would be convenient in so cold a country as Holland ; that it was not handsome for me to go to the Pensioner or Secretaries on foot, whilst they sent their clerks back again in coaches ; and that myself and servants could not subsist with any tolerable credit upon twenty shillings a day, which tallies and the change of money hardly bring beyond eighteen : that the public Ministers, owning me with regard to the title I was commanded to take of the King of England's Secretary, came to visit me, and that I could not go to them or to Court when I was too dirty. My Lord Portland was pleased to think my pretensions were rather founded on reason than vanity, and assured as well my Lord Lexington as Mr. Blathwayt and myself that he would move it to His Majesty and get it fixed on this side, so that I hoped to have given Your Grace no trouble in so small a matter at a time when those of the greatest moment are to be formed and guided by your care and conduct ; but the King going hence this morning in order to embark, I had no opportunity

of seeing my Lord Portland or he of speaking to the King; so I humbly lay my circumstances before Your Grace and desire only to be added to the multitude whom you daily oblige. I ventured to tell my Lord Portland that my requests were no way irregular, that Mr. Poley, who was only called *Gentilhomme Anglais*, had an allowance of three pounds a day, as had likewise Mr. Stepney at Vienna with the same character of Secretary which I have here; and that I did not question but that Your Grace would assist my request in England if His Lordship (as has happened) should be hurried hence without an opportunity of representing it." *Copy.* (X. 90.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1694, Nov. 9–19. Hague.—"His Majesty (Your Grace will have known) set sail yesterday afternoon. Prince Vaudemont set forward in the evening towards Brussels.

"Count Kaunitz assisted yesterday at the Congress, as his Lady does every evening at the assemblies. His equipage is preparing extreme rich [*sic*], and he designs to make a great figure, which has already thrown the seeds of discord between the Countess of Kaunitz and Madame Lilieroot, the Swedish Envoy's wife. *Vive la guerre!*

"I lately troubled Your Grace with such a letter of my own affairs that nothing can be bolder but my not asking your repeated pardon for it; Fortune may starve my body if she pleases, but shall never lessen my ambition." *Copy.* (X. 93.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694, Nov. 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—"Your plenipotentiary has had audience of my Lord Duke and represented the state of your affairs as well as his own. His Grace intends to know the King's pleasure upon both; which, I hope, will stay your stomach till everything can be done in their order. I have seen Mr. Blathwayt, who still thinks it more feasible to get you helped in the necessary charges you mention by adding them to your extraordinaries than by an augmentation of allowance, if it were but for the precedent's sake. So that if my Lord should consult him before he speaks to the King as it is fit, he should know originally how far it has proceeded. I can't answer it won't end there; but I think you ought to be indifferent whether it doth or not, for 100*l.* by a bill of extraordinaries is very like 100*l.* by a privy seal. I hope you believe me, I shall be glad to hear you are mounted, though we have more dirt and I have further to go in it." (II. 28.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1694, December 3. N.S. Hague.—Letter of thanks for the Earl's espousal of his cause. "Our ministers are infinitely satisfied with His Majesty's speech and the *ouverture* of

the *Parlement.* I know not if one of our Northern neuters speaks as he thinks." *Copy.* (X. 94.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1694, Dec. 4–14. Hague.—" Yesterday one Wall, brother to my Lady Oglethorp, came to me and gave me an account that he, being here on his private concerns, and his circumstances being low, being likewise amongst the Jacobites here, and looked upon as one of that party, has been solicited by one Edward Roberts at Amsterdam to help forward a correspondence between those of that party in France and their brethren in England; and has accordingly consented to accept the same employment. He promises, as such letters come to his hands, to send them to me. If there be anything worth noting in the letters he shall send me, I shall take copies of them, and send them to you, forwarding the originals. In a post or two I shall know more of this affair; the man's business in the meantime is a little money, which, I told him, he should not want if he gave me any information worth it.

" In order to deserve he has given me this book, which Roberts, who holds the Jacobite correspondence, gave to Wall, to be delivered by a friend of Wall's who was going some time since into England, according to its address, to Mr. Peter Welsh at Mr. Evance's near the *Wheat Sheaf* in the Old Bailey. It is only a Dutch Comedy, but that could hardly be the design of the present; the margin is, I believe, filled with writing, some of which upon applying it to the fire is come out, as you see, but so imperfectly that I can make nothing of it. I presume there is some other way of fetching the letters out, and choose rather to recommend it to you, plot-finders of the office, whose trade it is to know these matters, than to hazard the spoiling my plot by tampering with my own ignorance to bring it forth. This may be a trifle or a thing of consequence, God knows; as I have more light in the matter I shall inform you, and you will tell me what I am to do to hold my Proteus." *Copy.* (X. 95.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1694, Dec. 4–14. Hague.—" I am infinitely obliged to my Lord Duke's goodness and Mr. Vernon's intercession; and have read Seneca too often to be discouraged at the disappointment. I am too old to cry for a coach, and too young to have a real want of one; and ought to be satisfied with my pension, if the Government is satisfied with my service; if I consider that I have less than I desired and more than I deserved.

" *Quando id quod velis non possis, velis id quod possis:* so to show you I am not out of humour, I remember that 100*l.* in a bill of extraordinaries is very like 100*l.* by a privy seal.

I hope, therefore, a coach, to be hired when I have business, may be allowed; else, take five gilders from ten gilders and there remain but five, and consequently I must fast those days in which I give in memorials or pay visits. The small equipage of three rascals may come in likewise, and the house-rent for reasons not unlike the former." *Copy.* (X. 96.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694, Dec. 7 [-17]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Blathwayt calling here this evening, I carried him up to my Lord Duke, and their chief discourse was about your concerns. My Lord thought no difficulty would be made in passing upon your extraordinaries some reasonable demands, and they were both of opinion not to move the King in it beforehand, as thinking his consent more easily to be obtained when the expense was made; therefore it will now become your prudence not to let it be excessive, or what may endanger a refusal.

"I have also acquainted His Grace with what you wrote about my Lady Oglethorp's relation: he likes the proposal, and thinks it ought to be encouraged. It is certain Roberts is an inveterate fellow; and one that shall get into an intimacy with him may know something; but whether this person be of a talent for it you will judge best. However, my Lord Duke thinks a trial ought to be made, and what considerations you give him will be allowed. I suppose you will do it sparingly at the beginning, till you see what he is capable of performing.

"I have sent the book to our wise men in the art, that they may try what they can bring to light: the man it was directed to we know to be stuffed full of malice and disaffection. Therefore, any letters sent to him will be fit to be looked into." (II. 29.)

Matthew Prior to Mr. Wall.

[1694,] Dec. 8–18. [Hague.]—"It seems strange enough to me that Mr. Roberts, who proposed the matter of which we have treated together, should not be kind enough to help you for some time, and it is unhappy enough that your circumstances will not give you time that I may be able to assist you. I will not venture my sentiments of this affair further in pen and ink, and can only assure you that upon what you propose to me you shall not want encouragement, if you can find means to give me anything upon which I may depend." *Copy.* (X. 97.)

Matthew Prior to [George] Stepney.

1694, Dec. 11–21. Hague.—"I have yours of this day sennight, and am admiring that people who talk of 5*l.* a day, then 4*l.*, now 400*l.* equipage, and now nothing, in your case, should be so regularly resolved in mine as not to help

me because they want a precedent: they have all sorts of weapons I see, and keep us, as you advised me to keep my virago, at arm's length: and we must e'en arm ourselves in the Apostle's magazine with the helmet of patience and the sword of faith. There is certainly nothing more irregular than the last proposal of 200*l.* in a lump: but that is an objection that I ought not to start, but that we are talking only of examples and precedents; and I think Mr. Blathwayt's advice may be our *pis aller*, though I see no harm in t'other, as Fascio said of his pupils going to church. Believe me Shephard knows no more of my Lord Dorset's mind than he does of your negotiation, and would offer the 100*l.* a year as liberally to Ben Conway, whom he never saw but once, as to me whom he has known this eighteen year. The gravity of his follies is unsufferable, and he wants a tutor more than my Lord Buckhurst. I thought you were not such a stranger in Israel as to fancy he expects to be believed: but I forget you have been in a country where all the *beaux* have such faces and *mines*, and the Privy Councillors are all drunk by three after dinner.

"I am well enough affected to a seat in the office, *i.e.*, in case our projects abroad fail, to have it promised, that I may have the offer, rather than, having no provision here if a minister should be sent, to be obliged to make the campaign with Mr. B——; but I had much rather have Ratisbon, and consequently be in state to join Lord Lexington *en cas de besoin*, which you know answers to the plan we propose to ourselves of making our forces joined so formidable in the Empire. However, I say, from a seat in the office one may leap abroad after having learnt the routine, and we have precedents of this matter from my Lord Arlington to father Vernon.

"Shwinfort is in the right of it to fancy himself fit for an employment of which he wants the emoluments. Hughes, you will find, has just the same sentiments; 'tis all a game, Catt, and we that are partners are rather to hold up our cards than blame our adversaries for peeping into our hands, or endeavouring to trump the cards we hope to make our tricks by. I do not find, that we are drawing near a peace, so possibly they will not leave me a year only upon the questions *an?* and *quomodo?* at Ratisbon. You do well to stop interlopers, however, and I see you distinguish my interests no otherwise from your own than by embracing them with more zeal. Pray take your leave of our friends in Channel Row and of Lord Dorset. May be, he may send me something to begin house-keeping. See Lady Orrery too, and desire to know if I may be serviceable to her in anything here. Ollinda is miraculously recovered from folly, and (if one may believe her scrawl) resolves to be *resnabel*. I am perfectly friends with her: how easily we pardon those we love! and count that for certain which we have a mind to hope! and

if it were not for the dear deceit, who would desire life and *brigue* foreign employments, when at home one may find twenty ready ways of dying ? or who would be vexed about extraordinaries, whilst arsenic is but nine pence an ounce, and a rope costs but three halfpence ? " *Copy.* (X. 98–9.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

[1694, Dec. 11–21.]—" I have not writ a great while to my good friend and patron, Sir William Trumbull, but then too I have not dunned a Commissioner of the Treasury with whom I pretend to have some interest, so I hope my modesty on one side may atone my neglect on the other, and you will not be surprised if I touch only on : *I am extremely obliged to you for having given your acquaintance and protection to a young man in my circumstances ;* and immediately change my note to : *God in heaven bless Your Honour ; relieve a poor creature in a strange country.* Necessity, Sir, has as little manners as it has law ; and when one is really starving, 'tis in vain to be told one is impertinent. Hitherto I have borrowed and done pretty well : those who lent me money and are not yet paid have had the trouble on't, but for want of more such civil persons I begin to be a little troubled myself. There is a great correspondence between the stomach and the heart : one is out of humour commonly when one is hungry ; and it is time to think what friends I have at Whitehall when Famine sits triumphant on the cheeks of my two footmen and the ribs of my two horses. You will be pleased to take this into your consideration, when Mr. Powys presents Your Lordship my extraordinaries." *Copy.* (X. 100.)

Matthew Prior to [James] Vernon.

1694, Dec. 14–24. Hague.—" I have yours of this day sennight. I am infinitely obliged to my Lord Duke, but this will better be seen by my obedience to his commands than by any compliments I can make to a man of his quality and business.

" Mr. Wall has been with me again, and brought me two letters enclosed under cover to him : they were directed to Mr. Stephen Montage at Garraway's Coffee-House, but are really for Edward Roberts at Amsterdam : they are written from one R. Downes, which, I presume, is a sham name for one that is with my Lord Middleton at St. Germains. In one of the letters Downes sends him the Paris *Gazette*, and tells him he will take care to have his money returned as soon as he can, and advises him to write under cover to Mr. Lanyon : the other letter, of which I send you a copy, is writ, you see, in a cant. I had a seal made in two hours with which I sealed again these letters, and returned them to Wall ; so that I presume it impossible to be known they have been opened. I have instructed Wall to get the key to this cant,

and have taken such measures by the Pensioner's assistance as to be able to get from the Post Office at Amsterdam such letters as Roberts himself may put in for the future, the copies of which you shall have if they contain anything material. In the meantime I have given Wall some moderate encouragement, which I shall increase as he continues to be serviceable.

"Sir James Hayes is just now with me: he is very sick, and, because he does not know how soon he may be called to another world, is willing to discharge his conscience of a piece of roguery which he has lately found out in this. 'One Rice' (he says), 'an Irishman in Captain Napper's Company in the Duke of Leinster's Regiment, and one Sanders in Colonel Coy's Regiment have deserted, sold their horses at Louvain, and by the Jesuits at Ghent were recommended to those of Antwerp to get a pass by the means of Hackett of Rotterdam. In the boat' (where Sir James met them) 'these two persons found a quartermaster of my Lord of Essex's Regiment,' (whose name Sir James knows not) 'who has been kind enough to Rice and Sanders either to put one or both of their names into the passport he had for himself and a sergeant, or to faye [*sic*] an attestation for Rice under the name of Boswix, and make Sanders pass for his own sergeant.' They are on board one ship, a Scotchman bound for London. Do you think fit to have them searched and charged? *Liberavi animam meam.*" *Copy.* (X. 101.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1694, Dec. 18–28. Hague.—"Since my last Sir J. Hayes has been several times with me: he is coming to you in a post or two, but is really very sick, so I send you the information with which he charges me for fear he should die by the way, as merchants do their second bills in case their first miscarry. He says that Father Hughes, commonly called Father James, the Fathers Hurly, Everard, the two Joyces and the Confessor of the English Dominicans at Brussels, as likewise one Shaw, a physician at the same town, who was companion and bedfellow to Tilly, suspected to have been hired to fire our magazines and run away upon that suspicion, and one Thompson do all encourage and entertain spies and deserters, and recommend them to one Hackett, a merchant at Rotterdam, whom the Pensioner and Government here know to be a very disaffected man. This Hackett gets passage for such deserters and spies in merchant vessels, and helps them underhand into England.

"That Thompson (of Brussels) procures passes there for such spies and deserters under the notion of their being burghers, which he did for one Butler, who went for France in or about November last, having a token from King James to the Government of Mons to receive him kindly at his arrival thither. Of his gang is likewise one Chambers, a tailor, who

lived formerly in Duke's Court in St. Martin's Lane, and ran from thence (as a Papist and a Jacobite ought to do) to live at Brussels. That the Confessor in Mons. Wolseley's absence has obtained a passport of the Elector [of Bavaria] for my Lord Stafford by the interest of Count Sanfré, to whom he had letters that recommended my Lord Stafford to the Count, from some great men in Germany. That my Lady Fingale and Madam Shelden of the English Nunnery at Brussels supply these deserters and villains with linen and money, and recommend them for passports to Count Sanfré, the Elector's Grand Chamberlain, and Don Andreas, who are kind enough to the fair sex and the fathers to procure these fellows passports, by the means of which they give the King's enemies intelligence and convey letters to France.

"That these Fathers Hurly, Hughes and the two Joyces frequent the house of one FitzSimmons belonging to the Post Office of Brussels, and carry spies and deserters to FitzSimmons' house to dinner, in order to recommend them to FitzSimmons' acquaintance: that FitzSimmons intercepts any letters for these fathers and their lay saints as they think may be written against them or their interest, which letters FitzSimmons returns to the fathers: that FitzSimmons has a son at Douay, and his wife under pretext of visiting this son goes into France and carries intelligence thither; that she went last summer from Douay into the French camp, and brought intelligence from thence to Brussels of several persons, who having been in France were suspected as not true to that Court's interest and consequently not to be trusted by that party at Brussels, particularly one Fitzgerald (she named) who had been Lieutenant in King James' guard, and had quitted that service. That one Captain Hawly of Sir Bevil Greenville's Regiment had been at Brussels with this FitzSimmons frequently, and is regarded by him and the party as a man true to their interests, and has been trusted by Mrs. Clough (who is the woman I searched by Mr. Wolseley's advice) to write letters to Tilly, since absconded, as being thought to have a design to set on fire the magazines, of which design all these fathers above mentioned were acquainted at Ghent. The persons who interest themselves for the deserters are, Clark, a Jesuit, who recommends them to one Swintorn, another Jesuit at Antwerp. At Ghent is likewise one Brockshaw: these supply deserters with money, a pistole to each, and send them to Sir James Gerardine at Dunkirk, to Major Mackarty at Lisle, and to Hackett at Rotterdam." *Copy.* (X. 102.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES VERNON.]

1694, Dec. 18–28. Hague.—"I send you enclosed what you will have *viva voce* from your baronet, Sir James Hayes, who looks more like a ghost than a witness: and if dying people speak truth (as my nurse has told me), one

may very well believe his narration. The use you will make of it, I presume, will be to lay it before the Honourable Mons. Wolseley, since most of the rogues lie in his province. For Hackett, who is in mine, we know him already: he is correspondent to Roberts at Amsterdam, of whom I have given you an account. I have employed your terrier to unkennel another rogue or two here, who do all they can in the vineyard of iniquity: which as soon as I have done, I will be sure to return you your spy, and if he miscarries in coming, it is not my fault." (X. 105.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [CHARLES] MONTAGU.

1694, Dec. 21–31. Hague.—"I think I never write to you but to ask you to do me some favour, or to thank you for having done it; yet even in these terms you have prevented me one letter, and got me 600*l*. before I had the face to ask it. 'Tis a strange ambition this of yours, my dear Master, that does not content itself with less than the happiness of all those you have honoured with your friendship, and makes you descend from your own greatness to lift us a step or two nearer to you. I have two or three good thoughts and similes upon this occasion, but they are fitter for a dedication than a letter, so I will put them in my commonplace book, till, having completed some years hence my memoirs, I humbly offer them to my Lord Treasurer of England. In the meantime to be true to my custom, having received your last most particular favour, I am clearing the way towards another. My affairs here are well, and the man of business thinks better of me than I deserve. How long I may continue in this secretaryship you, my good patron, will soonest know. If the King names no man of quality before he comes to us, I may take it for granted I am to continue here some time, of which I should be very glad, as what may place me in a good light and make me known; but I hear from some of the great ones here, who are my friends, His Majesty will supply the post. So we must cast about in time. What offers is Ratisbon, where we have no minister, and where if I were I should not be out of the way for *Secrétaire de l'Ambassade* when a peace may come to be treated. The project of such a Secretary in some months, of which Mr. Blathwayt and Lord Lexington have spoken here, is fallen; for I may tell my dear Master, Mons. Harlay, whom you have heard to have been at Maastricht with two other French gentlemen on some overtures of peace, can make nothing of it: he could bring Dyckvelt to no sort of beginning, and the thoughts of treating are laid aside at Versailles. If, therefore, anybody is to be a year or two at Ratisbon to see what the Diet does, I may probably be your man.

"If D'Hervort be recalled from Switzerland, as we agree he either is or will be suddenly, I am of no quality and an Englishman, which are two qualifications the Cantons like

in a minister from us. I am not able indeed to cope with Amelott, but Stepney is otherwise provided, and for the rest of those already abroad, with all my heart *luscus inter caecos videt.*

"I know not if Denmark or Sweden may be supplied: Molesworth and Duncomb have done our affairs no good in those Courts, and we must send tolerable ministers (if we can find such) to repair our credit there or make them think we have a King; my last hope, if these projects fail, is a seat in the next Secretary's office; so, my Master and Patron, having our plan and our time before us, we may work with more ease and sureness."

Postscript.—"My obedient service ought always to be given to my Lady Manchester." *Copy.* (X. 108.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1695, Jan. 4. N.S. Hague.—"By the enclosed you will see what use I have made of your knight errant, and how ineffectual my giving passports for the packet is, whilst this gang convoy their brethren into England by merchant ships. Our Don is extremely cherished by the party, and gone with his female convoy to Rotterdam, in order to their finding him a passage over. He will write to me till his embarking, and tell you the rest of his story in England. I have provided for his escape in case he should be discovered or suspected by his new friends, and have given the Pensioner a copy of this information. The Pensioner has given me the honour of a long audience in order to our taking such methods as may most effectually break this gang and hinder rogues, who really come from France, to pass into England, and wenches to bring letters in their stays or (as Mr. Wolseley says) a little lower. You see we know the sinners: the question is if we ought to enter into judgement against them, or if our shooting a rascal deer or two will be sufficient to disperse the herd. I am to apply myself again to the Pensioner upon my Lord Duke commanding me, what His Grace thinks proper on this matter for His Majesty's service. Wall has been with me again, and agrees with what I was before informed, that the intercourse of messages and letters from France is maintained by Creagh and Henderson at Amsterdam and by Wereaux and Hackett at Rotterdam. I have given him some encouragement; I mean money. He has likewise had some from Mr. Secretary Trenchard. I have taken measures with him that his seeing me may be extremely private, and I believe he may do some service, for there is some villainy brewing by these good men on this side." (X. 110.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Lexington.

1695, Jan. 7. N.S. Hague.—"I accept my good Lord's challenge of the 18th December, though I think you have too evidently the advantage on your side; you and your

Abraham* are too formidable for so poor warriors as I and mine to cope with. When the beautiful Thalestris took up arms, 'twas only the conqueror of the world that durst oppose her; and Venus in the battle was wounded by Diomedes alone, who descended in a right line from about half a dozen of gods. Abraham furnished me with these two fancies, and to show me there is a worse poet alive than his master gave me these verses for a New Year's gift. He is foolhardy enough to be fond of entering into this defiance, and as Hudibras was incited by Ralpho and Don Quixote by Sancho Pancho, so I am pushed by the faithful, who tells me I must fight, and brings me his opinion in metre, as Your Lordship will see it in his own hand if you please to turn over from my poor prose.

"What glory is't for you to maul
"Poor Consul Kick, or old Sir Paul? †
"Such easy conquests but upbraid ye.
"Come, charge your guns, lead up your men!
"Dubb! Dubb! tantara! to Vienne,
"To bang this formidable lady.
"In true heroics 'twill be held
"Much less to gain a vulgar field
"Than to be beat in such a quarrel;
"And whilst our black and blue can show
"What hand it was to give the blow,
"We would not change our thumps for laurel.
"Perhaps they to their force may joyn
"Famars, that Swiss that fights for coyn,
"Or to their Abram add their Davers:
"However, we shall give 'em those
"Who shall return them *quids* for *quos*.
"A clear stage only and no favours,
"Our Pierre shall hold their Peanman tight,
"As soon as he can read and write.
"And if Cuz meddles in the matter,
"We have a lovely she ally
"(But *tace*: that's 'twixt you and I)
"Shall strip her stays off and have at her.

"I dare not sustain Abram's rhodomontade. I own I am a coward in nature, and so far from being able to take up the cudgels against your Abraham and her party, that I ask her pardon for the liberty of my half, and am with all respect Her Ladyship's most obedient and most humble servant." *Copy.* (X. 111.)

Matthew Prior to the Duke of Shrewsbury.

1695, Jan. 7. [N.S.] Hague.—"What is here most considerable is the account which Count Kaunitz has given the States of Giula being surrendered to General Polland, which,

* Lady Lexington. † Sir Paul Rycaut.

if it does not facilitate a peace, will at least advantage the carrying on a war. The Germans say it is of great consequence, and their minister here rejoices for it.

"We had by the same post the news of the Venetians owning his Majesty's title, of which I have taken occasion to speak as I ought to the ministers here.

"Letters from Dresden say the Elector of Saxe has had a violent fever, and is relapsed into it, which is very natural upon his drinking punch and Italian wines as remedies for his distemper. Mr. Stepney may change his Prince once more. The family have such an antipathy to reason as not to be easy unless they have it drowned, and are so weary of life as to get rid of it by four and twenty.

"Luxembourg has used his lamp more carefully, though, God be thanked, 'tis now very near going out. Some letters say that he has been blooded four times for a pleurisy, and is now in the hands of the priests; so probably France may lose a General, and Heaven may gain a Saint.

"The Elector of Bavaria was married the 2nd instant to the Princess of Poland at Wesel, the new *Electrice* they say is not extremely beautiful, but one of her maids of honour is; an equivalent in politics is valid. Monsieur Van der Branden, destined to the Embassy of England, is married here to a rich widow, whence such young ministers as I may learn the means to get equipage-money advanced without importuning our masters and patrons.

"I hope Your Grace has long since recovered of your indisposition." *Copy.* (X. 113.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694–5, Jan. 1 [–11]. Whitehall.—"I hope His Majesty begins to give way to other thoughts, and that he may find some diversion in business. I hope we may now offer our letters of notification to be signed so that they may be sent by next post, but they would have been presented at Kensington very unseasonably till now.

"My Lord Duke can't yet get rid of his pains which pass so frequently from his knee to his head, and there they have lately occasioned a great disorder causing a weakness in his eye, which is very mortifying considering how he lost the other." (II. 30.)

The Duke of Shrewsbury to Matthew Prior.

1694–5, Jan. 4 [–14]. Whitehall.—Sends several letters from the King notifying the Queen's death, to be forwarded by Prior to the President of the States' Assembly, and to the King of Poland, the Electors of Mainz, Trier, Köln, and the Palatinate, and Bishop of Münster, through their respective ministers at The Hague. Mourning will be allowed him on his next bill of extraordinaries.

Signed. (II. 31.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

169[4–]5, Jan. 4–14. Hague.—"I have the honour of Your Grace's of the 28th December with the cruel news which touches Holland to that degree that she may contend with England whose sorrow is greatest. I waited on the Pensioner (as in particular from Your Grace) with the sad relation, till the notification of it comes. He humbly returns Your Grace his acknowledgements for it. Everybody here resents the calamity as they ought: we are all abundantly convinced that we have lost the best of Princesses, and are in the greatest apprehensions for his health who only could deserve her. The sole consolation we give ourselves is that we have such men as His Grace of Shrewsbury to comfort our afflicted King, and relieve four sorrowful nations. I prepare mourning according to Your Grace's direction." *Copy.* (X. 115.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

169[4–]5, Jan 4–14. Hague.—"*O fallaces nostras spes et brevem fiduciam humanam!* What have we to say but our prayers for the preservation of the King's life? I have answered His Grace on this sad subject. I hope you have or will give me a word of instruction how I must behave myself as to the ministers here, if I must give them notice of Her Majesty's death (I vow to God I tremble whilst I write the word) as they have done on such occasions to my Lord Dursley by a deputy, or if I must do it myself; if I must wear a long trailing cloak as is the custom for ministers here, and as Mr. Norf did for the late Bishop of Liége, and Mr. Lelienroet for his Queen, or if not having credentials makes a difference in this matter, so that only myself, servants, horse and coach be in mourning; what else you judge fit for my instructions in this melancholy occasion, which has dazed me into the colic." *Copy* (X. 115.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

169[4–]5, Jan 5–15. Hague.—"This morning the States General received notice that on Saturday last the Princess of Frize was brought to bed a daughter.

"We have nothing but the dismal sound of bells, and more dismal chime of many bad poems on too good a subject; but *sic dii voluistis.*

"I hope Your Grace has recovered your health, of which I most heartily wish the continuance." *Copy.* (X. 117.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1694[–5], Jan. 11[–21]. Whitehall.—Giving directions as to the transmission of "eight melancholy letters" to the neighbouring Courts.

"Mr. Wall, whom you have mentioned in some of your letters, I find has been making the same discoveries to Mr.

Secretary Trenchard, for aught I know before they were brought to you. Mr. Hopkins tells me you have advised him to make all his applications to my Lord Duke. He has, it seems, been consulting upon it, and they have given him leave to do so if he thinks fit. But my Lord is of opinion he should continue where he has begun, since the King will have the same benefit by his informations, if they prove material: therefore don't alter his former course as to the other office, but for what he will tell you besides, you may let my Lord know it, as you have done." (II. 32.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles] Montagu.

1694–5, Jan. 25-Feb. 4. Hague.—"*Pallida mors æquo*—has struck us all here more than an earthquake. I suppose it has had the same effect on your side, but my dear Master has read the philosophers from Epictetus to Lucian, so we are not so much to deplore our loss as to strive to make the best out.

"As to what regards my private self, therefore, in this public sorrow Her Majesty's death may hasten a man of quality hither as Plenipotentiary, which may be Lord Villiers, and from thence we are to take our measures as we can. His Majesty may possibly fill the other vacancies I have mentioned, of Denmark, Sweden, or Ratisbon; a resident may be sent to Florence, another to Venice—*Omne solum forti patria est* I hope I shall not be left destitute whilst the Duke of Shrewsbury is Secretary and Mr. Montagu Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am very well with the Pensioner and could get him to tell my Lord Portland so, if you judge it necessary. I have written to-night to my Lord Portland, *sans faire semblant de rien;* these matters will be decided before the King's coming over, so we must have a vigilant eye. I call it 'we,' for you, Sir, have always regarded my interest as if it were your own; and when I consider that you have taken your poor neighbour and made a friend of him, and solicited for that friend as if he had been your brother, I doubt not but you will have the reward you deserve (though a good while hence) in the Court of Heaven; and I the credentials I do not deserve to some Court or Republic a little nearer." *Copy.* (X. 119.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

169[4–]5, Feb. 5–15. Hague.—"I thank you in the first place for your compliment of 'send a wise man an errand'; and following that wisdom of my own I was informed by some much wiser what I was to do as to the ceremonial part of my function; *scilicet*, to take the deepest mourning I could with a band and long cloak, when I delivered the letter to the President of the States, and the other letters to

the ministers here; and to keep my very strict mourning and my band till Her Majesty be buried, after which I am to appear as other mortal men. I give you this *ex post facto* to confirm your good opinion of my wisdom.

"In the next place I am glad and sorry according to your several relations of my Lord Duke's health, in which I know not by what impudent attachment I am as sensibly concerned as if I were his familiar friend. I believe Dr. Sherlock's system of a particular providence; yet seeing my Lord Duke want his health, which is so necessary to support the Government, and our *ci-devant* Master, who would mischief us, well and lusty, seeing the Queen dead and Mrs. Sherlock alive, methinks the Doctor would be hard put to it to clear the objection.

"Our friend Mr. Stepney is not yet arrived here, nor have I any letter from him since one from the Buoy and Nore. I do not imagine the reason of his stay. I shall perform your commands to him as soon as I see him, and we shall both (I dare swear) remember you with the duty that becomes us.

"I have forwarded the letter to Mademoiselle Maleuse." *Copy.* (X. 120.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1694[–5], Feb. 22 [-March 4]. Whitehall.—"I find Mr Stepney has remembered some books he promised my son. James desires you will add to them Strauchius' *Chronology* and Puffendorf, *De Jure Gentium*, with his books *De Rebus Suecicis*, which are not to be had here, and what these come to I'll take care to repay it.

"My Lord Duke is still in the country, and does not so much as mention when he will be coming up. I find the air has not removed his pain, but that he has it after the old manner, sometime in his head, and lately again in his knee, which is the better place of the two; and if it be goutish humour, I wish it would declare itself and settle where it ought to do. In the meantime it can't but make him very uneasy and some others too who have so many reasons to be concerned for him. The letters you sent me were from the Abbess of Herford to condole, and from the Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt to notify the birth of his daughter. The third with red wax, not knowing what that may contain, I have sent unopened to the King.

"As to what you writ lately about the omission of *Serenissimus* in the titles of the Mecklenburg family, I have looked into the old books and find it has been formerly given them; and therefore wish it had been so now, but in the hurry of so many letters that were to be despatched at one time . . . . this has been overseen; and the like slip in the letter to the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp, which shall be mended for the future." (II. 33.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

169[4–]5, March 8–18. Hague.—"We have had nothing new here for some months but volumes of bad poetry upon a blessed Queen. I have not put my mite into this treasury of nonsense, having been too truly afflicted by the subject to say anything upon it, besides that memoirs, letters, accounts Dutch and French, and, what is a worse plague than all this, very long and impertinent visits are great incumbrances on an English Muse who in her perfect liberty was but indifferent, though my Lord Dorset's kindness brought her up, and his example taught her.

"I am striving with my prose affairs, which indeed concern me nearer. My dear Lord and patron will pardon me whilst I represent them to him, and, I am sure, will assist me in the bettering of them.

"'Tis more than probable that His Majesty may before his coming name an envoy for Holland. I know no way of being named to any of these employments but by the recommendation of men like Your Lordship, and shall not despair of something of this kind, if my Lord Dorset please to tell them that I have been under his protection sixteen years and five of them in His Majesty's service. I am not vain enough to be left in hopes of staying here with that character, if nobody be named of quality or experience as Plenipotentiary. I am confident Your Lordship's appearing for me might make me Resident, if one be named. The same kindness may, I believe, send me into the North, or fix me Resident at Ratisbon or Venice." *Copy.* (X. 124.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

169[4–]5, March 24[–April 3]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of the 20th and shall be always ready to give you more than my advice, if it lies in my power to serve you. As to the matter in question, you know, I suppose, Mr. Wolseley has long solicited and is designed for some part of Italy. Where he is to fix, or when he is to go, I do not so much as know whether it is resolved on. It is expected that some nobleman will go make the first compliments in those Courts; but when he will make any room for Residents is yet uncertain, or whether any such thing will be in fashion on both sides: I am persuaded at least that it will be the consideration of another year.

"As to the Northern Courts, they are out of our province and therefore I have less to do to enquire how they are or will be supplied.

"When any of the recommendations of this kind lie in our hands I think my Lord Duke has kindness enough for Mr. Prior not to forget him. I must confess I am not in pain lest it should not come to your turn to fill one Court

or another, and I am satisfied an envoyship will fall sooner to your share than a gentleman usher's place.

"I have been scribbling trials again, but now I am fain to do it by hearsay, being more employed of late in bringing people to the Old Bailey than to have leisure to attend them there." (II. 37.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1695, March 29 [-April 8]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Vernon is entirely of opinion that it will be better to let the mourning alone till you make up the next bill [of extraordinary disbursements]; for putting the chariot, horses, etc., with the mourning swells it so large that there will be no small difficulty to get the bill allowed. I have therefore struck all the mourning out of this bill. Mr. Vernon likewise finds fault with the particulars of the mourning, thinking 35*l.* too much for covering your chariot and harness, and 110*l.* 5*s.* for yourself and five servants. In the next bill you may please to insert the whole 196*l.* 5*s.* in one gross sum for a deep mourning for yourself, your family, your coach and equipage, and putting your house in mourning, etc.

"Your bill for this quarter which [*sic*] with the mourning would have been 614*l.* 1*s.*, but the mourning being deducted it amounts to only 417*l.* 16*s.*, I shall give it in to Mr. Vernon to-morrow morning in order to its being allowed, and it being usual to make him a present upon allowing of such bills, I desire you to let me know how much you would have me present him with; and what you pay in that manner you may please to insert under the head of fees paid at the Treasury and Exchequer upon the receipt of money.

"You may please to write to Mr. Montague to acquaint him that you have sent such a bill of extraordinaries to Mr. Vernon, and to desire his favour in ordering the payment thereof." (VIII. 45.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1695, April 19[–29]. Whitehall.—"I could only tell you by the last post that I had received your medals, and I can now satisfy you they are distributed; and must further acquaint you, if you think this will acquit you from the expectations people have of a poem from you, you will be mistaken, for they say you are not to come off with a posey and a shred of Horace; and they further desire, if you write anything in memory of the Queen, that you will take a little more notice of her than you do in her stamp, where she is neither represented by the effigies or the motto. I know not how you will like it, I should tell you what the critics say; but they say some poets and painters have placed themselves behind a curtain on purpose to lie *perdu* for censures." (II. 38.)

Matthew Prior to the Duke of Shrewsbury.

1695, May 13. [N.S.] Hague.—"On Wednesday we tried one of our bomb-vessels on the Maas with good success. Nine of these vessels will be ready in four days. We are to have three more, but they belong to the quota of Frize, and will not be ready so soon. If they are so at all, it is well.

"All is quiet in Flanders till our *anima mundi* comes to move the great machine." *Copy.* (X. 130.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1695, May 7[–17]. Whitehall.—"I endeavoured to have waited upon Sir William with those letters, but he not being at the Office, I left them with his secretaries Ellis and Tucker, and told them the chief of my errand was to recommend my son Prior, that, as he was drove out of one place, he might be provided for in another; and I let them know we had always reserved Ratisbon for you. They are both your friends, and I believe their patron is so too, so I hope that won't fail to make surer of it. I spoke this morning to Mr. Blathwayt, who always concurred for placing you at Ratisbon as the last resort, and I fancy it will pass through his hands to send you thither." (II. 39.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1695, May 10[–20]. Whitehall.—Announcing his appointment as one of the principal Secretaries of State, and adding the following postscript in his own hand:—

"I have taken the liberty to recommend you particularly to the King upon my Lord Villiers' going over. I found His Majesty very well disposed, and though I have time to write no more now, yet, when you will let me know your mind, I will readily embrace any opportunity of serving you. I hope ere long to thank you for your poem, as I do now for the medal." (II. 40.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1695, May 17[-27]. Whitehall.—"Lord Villiers is appointed Envoy Extraordinary to the States General of the United Provinces, and Plenipotentiary at the Congress in the same manner as my Lord Dursley was, with the like allowance of 5*l.* a day as Envoy, and 3*l.* a day as Plenipotentiary.

"Finding by this that your commission would determine, I have been with Mr. Ellis to know of him what provision or care would be taken of you when my Lord Villiers came over. He tells me he believes you are designed for Ratisbon; but that matter being to be settled by the King, now he is on your side of the water you will know it before him.

"I need not, I suppose, give you any caution to take care that if you are appointed to that station, that in the warrant

for your privy seal you get an allowance of equipage. If you are allowed 3*l.* a day, your equipage ought to be 300*l.*" (VIII. 53.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1695, May 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I have not had time to read your poem, but, however, I am sure it deserves my thanks; I have presented the other to my Lord Duke.

"I am very glad you have already a prospect of being provided for at Ratisbon. If you don't find much to do there, I know not whether you will be very sorry for it. I have heard how two of your predecessors spent their time there, Mr. Pooley in making love to the *fräuleins* and Sir George Etherege in making lampoons upon them. I should be pleased to see you settled there." (II. 42.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD VILLIERS.

1695, May 21–31. Hague.—Congratulating him on his appointment as Envoy and Plenipotentiary. *Copy.* (X. 131.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1695, June 3. [N.S.] Hague.—"The Pensioner goes to-morrow morning to Breda to meet His Majesty there.

"The States Provincial adjourned this day till Wednesday sennight.

"I presume to send you the last scandal we have from France, and a good *lardon* which De Breuil* has given us here. You will please to observe what a *philosophe* I am to be calmly reading these matters in this crisis of my fortune, and going on the old road without being tormented with the ambition of being a resident within this month, or dejected with the fear of being nothing. But my affairs are in faithful hands, and I believe my security proceeds from Sir William Trumbull's being Secretary of State." *Copy.* (X. 132.)

LORD VILLIERS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

[1695,] May 28[–June 7].—"I am extremely pleased to hear that the honour the King has done me in sending me to The Hague is any ways agreeable to the acquaintance I have there, and that their kindness to me has contributed to the favourable opinion that you can have of one so little known to you as myself. Upon our better acquaintance I'll endeavour to improve it. About this time fortnight I shall be ready to embark if the convoy is ready. I hope I shall find you at The Hague to receive some instructions from you." (II. 45.)

* *Cf.* Prior's letter of July 20, 1695, and Vernon's letter of June 30—July 10, 1696, pp. 57, 81, *infra.*

The Earl of Pembroke to Matthew Prior.

[1695,] May 30[–June 9]. London.—"I am always very well pleased to receive your letters. I have according to your desire recommended you to my Lord Portland. I wish that my speaking may have as good success as you are pleased to think it may. None who have heard of the Queen but ought (for the sake of her memory) to give you thanks for your ingenious medal. I am particularly obliged so to do for your having sent one to me." (II. 5.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1695, May 31[–June10]. Whitehall.—"I have this day delivered Madam Prior the tallies for 508*l.* 16*s.* for the quarter ended in February last. It will be a year and a half before they become payable, but interest is allowed after the rate of 6 per cent. I have on the other side given you an account of the money I disbursed which Madam Prior will repay me. I am to return you my humble thanks for the kind present you were pleased to order me, which I protest I was ashamed to receive, having not done anything sufficient to deserve it.

"I expect every post to hear you are ordered for Ratisbon. *Endorsed.*

Laid out for Mr. Prior.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
"Paid fees for his bill of extraordinaries ended 1 Feb., 1694–5	2	0	0
To Mr. Vernon 3 guineas	3	15	0
To the Clerk and Chamber-keepers	0	15	0
Fees of 2 warrants and orders at the Treasury	4	5	0
At Sir Rob. Howard's Office	6	15	0
At the Pells	3	8	6
At the Tellers	6	18	0
To Mr. Shaw 2 guineas	3	0	0
	30	16	6

"I believe you will a little wonder to see in one place 2 guineas, 3*l.*, and in another 3 guineas only 3*l.* 15*s.* When I gave the 3 guineas to Mr. Vernon guineas were then only 1*l.* 5*s.* each; but now they are 30*s.* I hope I shall have your approbation of giving the 2 guineas to Mr. Shaw, it being done by others." (VIII. 57.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1695, May 31–June 10. Hague.—"When the Chief Secretary of England writes to the meanest only to tell him he is doing him good, what sort of look should the young one put on? Should he make a civil bow and retire, or trouble his master with abundance of thanks? I asked Mr. Dyckvelt the question when I gave him Your Honour's letter this morning,

and he could not resolve me, for that in the course of his ministry he had heard of no such example, and fancied me, being a little poetically given, to have imagined so much goodness rather than really to have found it. Seriously, Sir, I don't know how to express myself in this occasion; and though my fortune depends upon Mr. Blathwayt's answer, I protest I am less anxious about the content of those letters than about owning my obligations to Sir William Trumbull. I should be glad to turn the discourse if we had anything here worth troubling Your Honour with.

"Mr. d'Opdam is gone to the Army, and Mr. Ireton is arrived here, which is all I know." *Copy.* (X. 132.)

Matthew Prior to the Duke of Devonshire.

1695, June 14. [N.S.] Hague.—"Before I knew if Your Grace had pardoned my troubling you with an indifferent medal, I ordered Tonson to address in my name to Your Grace with a more indifferent poem; and whilst I was conscious that I ought to write to Your Grace a very humble letter to implore your pardon for this double presumption, Your Grace without my writing has been pleased to send it to me, signed by your own hand, and accompanied with particular expressions of your favour. You will give me leave, my Lord, rather to be surprised at the kindness than to know how to acknowledge it, and let me make an unmannerly bow and retire, rather than a tiresome long speech, or detain you from the government of the nation, whilst I repeat your humility and goodness to the meanest member of it. I dare only add that I am extremely sensible of the great obligations I owe to Your Grace, that I shall strive to deserve the favourable opinion you have been pleased to conceive of me, and bless this first act of mercy in your regence, by which I find Your Grace pardon two such crimes as the committing bad poetry and plaguing our Governors with it.

"On my Lord Villiers coming hither I know not if I am to return to England, or be employed elsewhere. They talk of sending me resident to Ratisbon: this only I know sure of my fortune, that Your Grace's commands may find me here some time." *Copy.* (X. 133.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1695, June 11–21. Hague.—"I received Your Lordship's letter with the most profound respect imaginable, and I own your kindness to me with the most sincere gratitude. It is not in the power of words to tell how much I owe to you, and if it were, my Lord would not hear it; so I had better turn the discourse, and let the Secretary write to one of his Sovereigns and Masters, than the orphan and the poor boy

to the patron, who brought him up, and the friend who protects him. We are here as licentious in making news as at London: our Dutch Tories and Jacobites spread the stories they would have true, and one knows from most accounts what faction he is of that gives them. The talk of the most sensible is that we may attack the fort of Knock, upon which, if the Duke of Villeroy marches to that side, the Elector of Bavaria may break in upon the lines between the Lis and the Scheld, he being at present encamped at Castre near Oudenaerde. My Lord Athlone decamped on Sunday night from Bethlem near Louvain, through which he passed to Tirlemont, to join the Brand[enburg] and Liége forces, which are marching thither.

"The French having passed the Rhine content themselves with the action, having only encamped themselves, which I think the Germans are very willing to compound with, provided they mean no more. Prince Louis [of Baden], to give him his due, disposes all things as well as he can. He has mettle enough to fight if he had men, and has prudence, not having them, to desist it. The King has sent the Count de Frize, a Saxon, who is disgraced at that Court for standing up against arbitrary power, and General Schöning, his envoys to Prince Louis.

"The siege of Cazal [Casale] is again resolved, and the cannon brought up on Piedmont side. I believe our hopes of success are founded in the want of provision in the place.

"After our King's and Prince's affairs I may bring in my own, since Your Lordship has thought them worth your mentioning. I can only get for answer that the King is too busy to mind anything but what regards immediately the war, so cannot yet tell what is to become of me. I have presumed to send three small pieces." *Copy.* (X. 135.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1695, June 24. [N.S.]—"The Dutch squadron with the bomb-vessels sailed yesterday morning from the Maas and Texel, part of them were seen off from Scheveling about noon, and we doubt not but they are on the English coasts before now.

"The States General have ordered the 6th July, N.S. as a day of fasting and humiliation and prayer for the blessing of God on the arms of His Majesty and the Allies. The States Provincial met on Wednesday and continue their assembly.

"The Elector Palatine arrived yesterday at Rotterdam, and will be here in a day or two. *Homo homini quantum distat!* Whilst the King of England is battling in Flanders, and Prince Louis guarding as well as he can this man's own Rhine, he is cheapening china dishes at a toy shop in Holland, and King James is chomming [*sic*] a musty saint at St. Germains. All that we can have from the army to-day is by

way of Brussels and that very imperfect; our letters from the army immediately Your Honour will receive with this I now write. From Bruges they advise that all the 21st and 22nd great shooting has been heard from the fort of Knock.

"The Baron de H[e]yde was the 21st at Henau near the Mehayne [Méhaigne], and received, whilst he was writing his letters to the Brandenbourg Minister here, order from His Majesty to march with the troops; our next will tell whither.

"I have received Mr. Blathwayt's answer as to my own affairs, that it is His Majesty's pleasure I stay here some time after my Lord Villiers's arrival; so probably I may be *in statu quo* till the end of the campaign. Mr. Blathwayt does not know, he says, but that Mr. Stepney may be ordered to Ratisbon. I do not despair, however, of that or an equivalent, if the same patronage that has already recommended supports me." (X. 137.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1695, July 5. N.S. Hague.—"The States have letters to-day that Namur is invested by my Lord d'Athlone and the troops that were on the Maheyne [Méhaigne]. There are 15 battalions in the town. The Count d'Harcourt, who would have thrown in more, has been forced to retire before the Baron de H[e]yde; and M. de Boufflers is likewise cut off from reinforcing the garrison. His Majesty is at Masy, to which place God send him victory." *Copy.* (X. 138.)

Matthew Prior to Mr. Blathwayt.

1695, June 26–July 6. Hague.—"The Elector Palatine is still here: he runs to all the Mass-houses in the town all day, and sounds his trumpets on the Fiver [*sic*] all night; which is very discreet in a Protestant country, and whilst the Prince of it is at the head of his armies." *Copy.* (X. 139.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1695, July 5–15.—"You will hardly acknowledge this order to be yours, though we have looked upon it to be valid enough to put Mr. Somerville in prison till your commands are known as to what you would have done with him. He has already confessed the cheat, and pretends to be able to make some discovery which may be for His Majesty's service.

"Your Honour will hear that the trenches before Namur were opened the 11th and 12th, and that we have six batteries raised against it, and all goes as well as the beginning of a siege can expect.

"The Marquis de Villeroy decamped the 12th from Escanaffe [Seneffe]; and being reinforced with great part of the troops commanded by the Marquis de Boufflers, which make

a body of above 80 battalions, is marched not within the lines, as our Brussels letters say, but towards Ath : at least they have with them cannon, pioneers and instruments proper for a siege." *Copy.* (X. 142–3.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1695, July 20. [N.S.] Hague.—" Enclosed I send the last edition of *The Present State of France*, which I received last post from Paris by the means [of] De Breuil, our honest French *gazettier*.

" I have waited on M. de Plessen, and concerted matters with him concerning his voyage. Captain Robinson has likewise been with him to show him that our sea officers are better bred than those of his own country.

" I do not know if you have heard that Prince Christian, second son to the King of Denmark, is dead at Ulm, coming thence towards Italy from Vienna.

" The Elector Palatine continues at Amsterdam, and true Bartholomew Kocks buys all the shop. The Prince of Hesse-Darmstadt is with him, and will be here in a day or two.

" As to my own affairs, I pretend to merit from you in having kept a shoal of letters which my friends and patrons would have troubled you with but that I told them you are too busy to mind their solicitations at this time, and too mindful of my interests to need their solicitations at any time. *Tibi me commendo et res meas. Copy.* (X. 143–4.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD VILLIERS.

1695, July 20. [N.S.] Hague.—" Mr. Swinfurt giving Your Lordship the news we have here leaves little for me to add more than my wishes that this may find Your Lordship well at the Army. Your Lordship's goodness to me makes me hint my own affairs. Mr. Stepney writes amongst other things to me from Frankfort the 7–17 July thus :—*Mr. Blathwayt tells me positively that my fate shall be determined next post, and Sir William Trumbull is so kind as to ask me where I have a mind to be. I have told him that I believe the die will be cast by Mr. Blathwayt before my letter reaches England, and that since I cannot choose my employment, because there are but two vacant, I must expect to be sent either to Vienna or Ratisbon. I have told him I would avoid as much as I can falling into your light, I mean Ratisbon.*

" Your Lordship sees by this part of Mr. Stepney's letter that his affair and consequently mine (for I presume they will both be done together) may be determined sooner than I imagined. Mr. Stepney would not cross me in my hopes of Ratisbon, and I should be too tender of a great friendship, long maintained between us, to ask it, if I thought it his or likely to be so ; but since in all probability he will be thought too useful to be confined to a dull Diet, or may probably be disposed of at Vienna (which is really his post, being His Majesty's Minister to the Elector of Saxe), or

indeed wherever he may have occasion of an able Minister, I think I may without immodesty remind Your Lordship that the Secretaries of State have already referred themselves on this subject to Mr. Blathwayt in my favour, and that five years and some little money (at least all my poor fortune) spent in His Majesty's service makes me hope I may not be disappointed after a thousand hopes, fears and congratulations. I believe Your Lordship's engaging my Lord Portland on our side may clinch the nail. I am sensible my requesting it is too bold, but Your Lordship's very great goodness to me is the cause of it, and you must not be so sincerely kind if you would be less troubled." *Copy.* (X. 144.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1695, July 12[–22]. Whitehall.—" I have yours of the 2nd and 5th instant which came together with a copy of James Somerville's pretended orders from me, which are forged, for I never gave him any instructions, having no knowledge of him ; but at the desire of Mr. Aaron Smith, who had used him in some matters relating to His Majesty's service here, did recommend him to Mr. Blathwayt as a man fit to serve in the Army. This fraud having been committed in Holland, I desire he may be proceeded against there according to the laws of the country, and that you will give my thanks to the Pensioner for his care in detecting the cheat." *Signed.* (II. 51.)

Matthew Prior to Ben Portlock.

1695, July 17–27. Hague.—" You were the first swain that ever I read of who lay on the brow of a hill when there was such hot work in the valley. You must break your pipe and take your trumpet, Ben :

Ille ego qui quondam gracili modulatus avena,
Arma virumque cano.

I commend your posture : lying upon your belly is safer than standing upon your feet ; and your legs are no more to be relied on than the Hanover Horse. You know they ran away the last battle. I am disappointed in all I hoped, which makes me melancholy enough to wish myself at Namur :

In battles and bullets and fire
The danger is less than in hopeless desire :

as the ballet very elegantly expresses it. *Adieu !* come home with all your limbs."

Postscript.—" Where is Ben Conway, or how may one direct to him ? " *Copy.* (X. 146–7.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Villiers.

1695, July 17–27. Hague.—" In obedience to Sir William Trumbull's commands intimated to me in the enclosed, I

have spoken to the Pensioner and to Mr. Consul Kirby, who is now here, concerning Somerville. I believe his having been imprisoned is his punishment, and all we can do to him will be to let him go again, except we have a mind to keep him in prison. Your Lordship remembers the fellow in Terence :—

Ducunt damnatum domum ;
Alere nolunt hominem edacem, et sapiunt mea sententia,
Pro maleficio beneficium si summum nolunt reddere.

"As to what regards some order in the passports, I have written positively to Mr. Vander Poele not to let any person embark but with passport ; and repeated to him the King's order thereupon. I have written the same thing to the masters of the packets. I do not know if Your Lordship will find them at leisure enough to get this matter settled at the camp (at least at your return, I hope we may) and to give Sir William Trumbull some fixed method of making the thing practicable and useful, or to represent its being rejected as being not so.

"I am confident of Your Lordship's willingness to help me in this incertitude of my fortune, so Your Lordship need not excuse your not writing to me, and I hope I need make no apology for telling you that Mr. Blathwayt is of opinion that if Mr. Stepney goes not to Vienna (as most probably he may not), Ratisbon will not fail him, upon which consideration I become *le Ministre de la Fortune, et le très humble serviteur des événements.* Your Lordship will please to make use of this hint as you think good, as to conceal your having had it from me. If Mr. Stepney be denied to go to Vienna, 'tis a chimera to think they will let anybody else go. I could make all my interest over again for Berlin, if I thought His Majesty designed any thither, and I would buy me a Veneroni's Grammar and perfect my Italian if I had any assurance or promise that I should be your man for Florence. Your Lordship will pardon me, I protest I should not dare to trouble you thus saucily, but that my affair, plainly speaking, may take the turn which my Lord Portland's intercession pleases to give, and that in all probability I may be either disposed of at the same time with Mr. Stepney or be forgotten long after." *Copy.* (X. 147–8.)

Matthew Prior to Mr. Emerson.

1695, July 20–30. Hague.—"I wrote to you by way of the Army last Wednesday was sennight to assure you of my having writ as well to Mr. Hill as to Mr. Cardonnel concerning your affair, and I am confident they will both advance it *secundum omnem possibilitatem.* I thought long before this time to have heard you were curing at Liége, and should have suspected your letter from Ghent as a *contrefait,* but that no man living writes a hand like you. I have written

again to Mr. Cardonnel that he should remember Mr. Blathwayt of your case ; and if I do not write to the Secretary immediately concerning it, I have my proper reasons for it, which are better to be told you when I see you than trusted to writing. My own affairs are infinitely more uncertain than yours can be ; and with the interest and credit that the world thinks I have I struggle with difficulties that are almost insupportable : but this is only between you and I [*sic*], for I laugh at disappointments and would have you do so too. Your point of honour is a little too delicate : no man is to be blamed for not having his deserts ; and the going on to do one's duty (let the success be as it will) is the established maxim of all wise men from King Solomon to King William. I give you this philosophy because I can give you nothing else at present, as the Irishman who, inviting his friend and having no meat, gave him snuff. In the meantime believe me I do whatever I can for you and I do not question but that it will turn to good. Give my service to Dr. Morell." *Copy.* (X. 150–1.)

Matthew Prior to Ben Portlock.

1695, July 20–30. Hague.—" I write to you upon a matter of justice and charity, two points that may seem ridiculous to you that are a heathen ; but they are such as my Lord Duke [of Württemberg], with all his courage, dare not resist. Do you but say it is to do a favour to a man who really deserves it, and I dare answer for the rest. It is our friend Dr. Emerson, who having good learning, coming on his own expenses to the camp, and having all that should qualify him for physician, having too served three years as Extraordinary Physician to the hospitals, has the bad luck this year not to be entered in pay yet, though the campaign is half over ; and that only for want of having it represented to Mr. Blathwayt or Sir Harry Bellasis that he is useful. If my Lord Duke would therefore only espouse this cause so far as to let you write a word or go with a message in His Grace's name in Mr. Emerson's behalf, he would questionless be put in pay, and freed from those anxieties which so great a disappointment casts him under. Prithee, dear Ben, have a fellow feeling. Apollo was a doctor as well as a poet, and could cure fevers as well as make odes. Give my most obedient service to my Lord Duke : I tremble for him in this damned cannonading. When he has taken the town, I hope to send him some money to spend in it." *Copy.* (X. 151.)

Matthew Prior to [Arnold Joost van] Keppel.

1695, August 3. N.S. Hague.—" The siege of Namur gives you toil enough at this time, and the clamours of petitioners allow you little quiet at any time. I should not have dared to appear amongst that number, though your kindness to

me at The Hague gave me all the encouragement imaginable, if my Lord Villiers at his return had not told me I might do it without any way offending you. I am extremely obliged to you, Sir, for the kind reception you have been pleased to give me, and I thought to have justified your good opinion of me by showing you I had modesty enough not to importune you; but when all one's fortune lies at stake, one easily forgets good manners. No man would be accused for crying out in a storm, or called a clown for rudely taking hold of his superior to support him if he be just falling. After having hoped, feared, been promised, and (which is worst) congratulated for Ratisbon, the King thinks there is not enough for a minister to do there. 'Tis true His Majesty knows best, for he is as evidently the most experienced man of our age, as he is the best Prince; and if he had been born a private man, he would have made a greater Ambassador than any State ever employed; yet I have one objection that could puzzle him, which is, that though Ratisbon may not want a resident, his Secretary at The Hague will soon want a residence; and though His Majesty have small use for a scribbling servant, I have great occasion for the bounty of a Royal Master. Wherever he pleases to send me, I am ready to go; where, if there be not much business, I shall apply myself to those studies that may make me capable of doing his business when there is any; and when there is nothing, to be written for his service in prose, I will write his conquests and glories in verse. A resident or envoy may in some small time be sent to Venice, another to Florence: be it at either of these two places, at Ratisbon, Berlin (where, may be, His Majesty may send rather a resident than an envoy,) at Stockholm, Copenhagen, or even Moscow, it is well, provided I may serve my King, my hero and my Master; but it is a sad reflection for me to think of going home as if I were disgraced, after having served here five years with some credit, and spent my little all in order to my being fit for something hereafter; and I take the boldness to protest to you I cannot think of returning to my College, and being useless to my country, to make declamations and theses to doting divines there, having drawn up memorials to the States General in the name of the greatest king in Europe. You will be pleased to pardon the freedom of this letter, and to help me in this conjuncture of my fortune." *Copy.* (X. 152.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1695, July 26[–August 5]. Whitehall.—"There is always a good deal of impertinence in business, but never so much as when it hinders one from enjoying the company one likes. It is now my fate, in respect of your letters, which though I have not time to tell you with what pleasure I receive, yet I must keep some of them to myself, and answer that of the 19–29, without letting it go into other hands.

"As for Somerville I have no more concern at all; let him go and (I dare say he will) be hanged.

"But I have a great deal for so good a friend as Mr. Prior, and if I were not so well acquainted with the uncertainty of all things in this (English) world, I should have been more surprised than I am at Mr. B[lathwayt]'s proceeding in this affair. For after I had wrote in your behalf with more warmth than I use to do, and had an answer that my representation of you had been laid before the King and kindly taken, and after your stay at The Hague some time to inform my Lord Villiers, His Majesty (no doubt) would gratify this request, I could not have imagined to have heard of this disappointment. Pray let me know, if you can learn, the true reasons of this matter, or if you can guess that you have any way displeased Mr. B. And when I hear from you I will tell you more of my mind. But let all this (as what else I now write) remain private between you and I [*sic*]. Tell me also, if you intend for England, and when, and wherein you think I may be any ways useful to you; I will faithfully endeavour to do you all the service I can.

"If you think fit, send me word what my Lord Villiers' business was in going to the King at Namur. I sent three letters by him to the Pensioner, Mons. Schmettau and Lilierote; but I never heard one word whether he thought fit to deliver them or not. Give me some account of them, if you can. Burn this scribble." (II. 52.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1695, August 2[–12]. Whitehall.—Money matters.

"Madam Prior complains she has not heard from you a long time. She says her daughter Villiers, being furnishing a country house, writ to you some time since to buy her some pictures, but has no account whether you received the letter." (VIII. 73.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1695, August 2[–12]. Whitehall.—"Though the King doth not think fit to send a minister to Ratisbon, yet some place or other may be found for you; and it being easier to find a place than to make a minister so fitted as you are to the King's hand, and to his mind too, as you see by what he has been pleased to say of you to my Lord Villiers, you may in my opinion be sure he will not let you lie out of employment longer than needs must, and you ought to be contented with his most gracious declaration in your favour, and never to entertain the least doubt of my doing you all the service that possibly I can." *Signed.* (II. 53.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Lexington.

1695, Sept. 2. N.S. Hague.—"I hope you do not think me so unreasonable as to expect a letter from you for

every one I write: no, my Lord, that would not be fair trading; the advantage would be too evident on my side, and I should be more a Jew in my correspondence than either Judah or Levi in money matters on the 'Change of Amsterdam. You say in yours of the 20th that you write to obey me. You obey me! When this is right (as Mr. Dryden says)—

Then let the sun no longer rule the day,
And midnight tapers show the moon her way.

"You see I am very angry; my Lord, for all your kindness I have nothing to return but bare obedience, and you are going to take that from me, and shortly you will thank me for having been obliged by you. I hope my Lady and Mrs. Davers will not give me reason to complain in this kind: they are of a sex that we seldom accuse of being too kind, and all that one expects of them is that they should not despise and rail at one if one does not love them, or not vex and plague one's heart out if one does.

"The King will have nobody at Ratisbon out of a principle of good husbandry; or if he would, I have reason to think (for indeed Mr. Stepney as well as Mr. Blathwayt tell me so), that the first must be the man. My Lord Villiers has asked the King very kindly for Ratisbon, as I have told Your Lordship the Secretaries of State have done likewise, but I am afraid *I have no occasion for a minister there* will be an argument as well against Stepney as myself. But here I am still, with my twenty shillings a day. Most places are *durante bene placito* except those of a judge or a bishop, and as long as I do not starve, I have no reason to complain.

"My Lord Villiers is here. He defers his audience till this business of Namur be over. I have made Your Lordship's compliments to him: I have told him too, he should very shortly have his right of correspondence with you, but that I would keep it off as long as I could, and I think it reasonable that he allows me my Lord Lexington and his secretaries since I give him freely up all the other members of the Ministry from Lord Pagett down to Consul Broughton."

Postscript.—"Storer is gone by: I have drunk Your Lordship's health with him. I refer you to Mr. Famars for the news. I cannot think the French will attack us, though they must do something *pour sauver la gloire de Louis le Grand.*" *Copy.* (X. 156).

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1695, August 31–Sept. 10. Hague.—"I take the relation of my Lord Villiers' audience yesterday for a pretext of troubling Your Lordship. The harangue he made to the States was short and very well: the substance of it—that he was commanded by His Majesty to renew the assurance of His Majesty's friendship and kindness to the States. My Lord added that he was by so much the more glad, as to his

particular, to have been honoured with this commission, having lived here and known personally several of their Lordships.

"Mr. d'Odyck, who was President, answered extreme well —that the State owed its foundation and establishment to His Majesty's ancestors, and to His Majesty all the prosperity of their estate and the success of their arms; that all their good depended upon His Majesty's life, which therefore he and the whole State desired God Almighty to prolong; that therefore a minister that came with a character from His Majesty was sure of all kindness and respect; and that my Lord Villiers was more particularly so for his virtues and merits. The rest was all eating and drinking the King's health. All the public ministers dined with my Lord from Count Kaunitz, the Emperor's Plenipotentiary, to Hunniken, for Lunebourg; and we drank *au Roi de la Grande Bretagne* yesterday, as we must do *au vainqueur de Namur* next week.

"Your Lordship will give me leave to congratulate your safety after all the toils and hazards of a siege memorable to all posterity, and to tell you that we are all as much rejoiced at the great reputation you have gained there as we were solicitous for your life whilst you were exposing it as became so loyal a subject; though seriously, my Lord, we are a little concerned at your using the Marquis de Boufflers so *en cavalier*, and cannot blame Villeroy and Choiseul for getting out of your way, since you have so quick a method of making people understand reason, and bringing them to the rules of justice." *Copy.* (X. 157–8.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1695, Sept. 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"Care will be taken here of the poetry,* and that it do not suffer in the printing, as it is pity it should. I see no reason why the author should be ashamed of battering B[oileau]'s poem, and reducing it, any more than we the Castle, since it is our honour that everything that concerns Namur be on our side. However, I have enjoined T[onson ?] silence, as is desired, though it is not possible to keep it long a secret. I will add but one circumstance to that purpose, which is, that Fleet[wood] Shephard knows it." *Signed.* (II. 54.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1695, Oct. 1–11. Hague.—"I have laid before the King your letter of the 27th past wherein mention is made of their Excellencies having consented to Colonel Hobson's staying out fifteen days longer, and of the extracts of letters from Colonel Hobson and Sir G. Rook, which His Majesty has

* *I.e.*, Prior's *Ballad on the Taking of Namur*,

likewise seen, and is pleased nevertheless to command me to send a copy of my last letter to you relating to that squadron, which His Majesty would have hastened out as was first intended, wherewith you will please to acquaint their Excellencies.

Postscript.—"The States have proceeded almost to a settlement of the State of War for the next year, which will not be unlike the last both for the sea and land forces." (II. 55.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1695, Oct. 11[-21]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Tucker after many scruples hath at length passed your bill of extraordinaries. I have always wanted directions from you what to do on passing your bills, but believing you leave it to me in general to do as I think fit, I have made pretty bold with your purse and given Mr. Tucker three guineas, which is 4*l.* 10*s.*† to make it slip the better, and remove the obstacles he made. He complains you do not correspond with him as you ought. On Wednesday next (which is our money day) I will give Mr. Montague a memorial of what is due to you, and pray do you write to him to assist you now your bill is past.

"The King arrived at Margate yesterday, and will this night be at Kensington." (VIII. 93.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1695, Oct. 15–25. Hague.—"If I consider the part you have always taken in my affairs, I ought to have given you an account of them last post, but if I remember how much business you must needs have upon your hands just on His Majesty's coming over, it might (may be) have been manners in me to have deferred it a post or two longer: so far by way of prelude, and now to enter into matter: upon His Majesty's arrival here my Lord Villiers represented my services very much beyond what they deserve, and indeed to that degree that His Majesty was obliged to tell him that he had a good opinion of me, and to manifest it he has declared his pleasure that I continue here till he shall think fit to employ me elsewhere; which I take to be much better than to saunter in the Court of Request and interpret the votes to Blancard, or be squired by that mirror of knighthood, Sir Fleetwood, through every tavern from Fish Street Hill to the Cockpit. The next thing to be considered was the pay, which (because the extraordinaries which the King thought fit to allow me before the arrival of a minister will be retrenched after) my Lord Villiers proposed to be augmented in the ordinary allowance, and has so far advanced in it, as that His Majesty has not rejected it, or, to speak truer, promised it. Mr. Keppel will remind His Majesty of it on your side, and I no more question but that a word in season from my Lord Duke

† *Cf*, *p.* 53, *supra.*

will confirm it than I question your being willing to mention it to my Lord Duke : so that from Ratisbon and a residence, I am fixed to my secretaryship and The Hague, where I shall live very contented for the present, and endeavour to make myself useful for the future ; and in sure and certain hope that, as His Majesty knows already that twenty shillings is but eight gilders, I shall get it doubled if His Grace thinks it reasonable. I cannot tell you how infinitely I am obliged to my Lord Villiers.

Postscript.—" I have forgot if Jimmy ever sent me word that he received the book of treaties which I sent him from Mr. Stepney." *Copy.* (X. 159.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles Montagu,] Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1695, Oct. 18–28. Hague.—" I am still to trouble you without making any apology, and you are to oblige me without being tired. From the enclosed, which I writ to Mr. Vernon with design that he may show it to my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury, my Master will see the state of my affairs, which are likely to be very well, if we can get that confirmed on your side, which is already advanced as you see on ours ; but it cannot rest on the foot where it is, for my privy seal reaches no longer than six weeks after the arrival of a minister at The Hague ; so that we must have a new privy seal passed in order to my continuing here, which point His Majesty has already determined, and not denied the increase of my allowance upon the considerations I mention to Mr. Vernon, which point likewise (by our favourite's intercession, to whom *sub rosa* I am much obliged) I hope may be gained, and I become less troublesome to you Lords of the Treasury, and easy to myself and my studies till some further occasion. I believe my Master will settle this affair with Sir William Trumbull, to whom I have written of it at large ; and if we get our forty shillings per day, for which possibly we must have the name of agent, I would not change it for resident and Ratisbon ; which may the better be done because our privy seal must be altered, and we may draw an advantage for ourselves from what would otherwise have proved a misfortune. In this crisis of my fortune my Master will pardon me ; however she turns, I am always yours. I wish I were a little at Westminster to *brigue* you votes ; may you be as happy in all you undertake as I could wish you." *Copy.* (X. 161.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1695, Nov. 22[–Dec. 2]. Whitehall.—" Mr. Tucker tells me Sir William Trumbull hath laid your affair before the King, who is not inclinable to augment your allowance by privy seal ; nor do I find they are yet about sending you abroad, but Mr. Secretary says you shall be allowed the

other twenty shillings a day in your extraordinaries, which, he says, must not exceed that allowance ; for now my Lord Villiers acting at The Hague, you are to remain only as a private person till the King sends you abroad, without any further allowance of extraordinaries than to make your ordinary entertainment 40*s.* a day. So that I see no other method than to pass your privy seal in this manner as directed, which I shall take care to do.

"I lay before Mr. Montagu every week a state of what is due to you, but we are so poor at present that we are not able to pay you.

"The Parliament met this day and have chose Mr. Foley again their Speaker, and are to present him to-morrow to the King.

"Yesterday died Harry Purcell, our famous composer of music." (VIII. 103.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1695, Nov. 26[–Dec. 6]. Whitehall.—"I have with all the earnestness and importunity of a faithful friend solicited the augmentation of your allowance, and prevailed with Mr. Secretary to speak a second time to the King for it, but His Majesty will not be brought to consent to more than 20*s.* a day, and some consideration in bills of extraordinaries, and those are not to exceed so much more ; so you must be content with what can be done in the manner I have told you, until the King can find out something proper to employ you upon, and I hope it will not be long before something of that nature be done. His Majesty did not think fit to allow you the character of *Secrétaire du Roy*, and if he had, it would not have entitled you to the 40*s.* a day. Be satisfied, and I am sure you will have no reason to repent it. I do not hear of any removes from Brussels, etc." (II. 58.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles Montagu,] Chancellor of the Exchequer.

169[5–]6, Jan. 6. N.S. Hague.—"This letter like one of our wassailer's visits is to wish you a happy Christmas and beg of you : in short I have half a year's ordinary appointments, a bill of extraordinaries, one of its younger brothers, now passing the Secretary's office, and another almost fit to pass the seal, upon all which, unless you Lords of the Treasury commiserate my condition, I break. His Majesty has promised to send me farther when he has occasion, and will keep me in the meantime upon the old foot. One would not starve till one sees what may come of these fair expectations, especially whilst Mr. Montagu is Lord of the Treasury.

"You will be pleased to let my Lord Godolphin know we do what we can to drive Abell over into England. He is perched at Amsterdam at singing with great satisfaction

in a city where he owes nothing: his debts at London make him afraid to venture at the kindness his patrons there offer him; and I have a fellow feeling for the poor minstrel, because at present I know how damned a thing it is to see faces to whom one owes money. I wish you, my good Master, all success in your Parliamentary and private affairs.

Postscript.—"The *Mary* yacht is still on this side, which is the reason that you have not yet your wine." *Copy.* (X. 162.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

169[5–]6, Jan. 10. N.S. Hague.—"This is chiefly to wish you a good new year, with all the happiness that can possibly attend it. I presume these from Mr. Stepney, which I send you enclosed, are full of his reception at Düsseldorf, and their desiring subsidies. I gave the Pensioner a packet from Mr. Stepney of the same date with yours, which was to that purpose, and returned the Pensioner's answer this morning in a letter he sent me for Mr. Stepney, though I had the substance of it *viva voce* last night, which was that no subsidies could possibly be hoped for or expected.

"The sum of our Flanders news is that the French have put garrison into their small castles between Sambre and Meuse, to cover the country from incursions of parties from Namur; and that they are working at the fortifications of Dinant, Philippeville and Charlemont.

"You will hear from Vienna that Count Windischgrätz is dead, and from Mr. Cresset that Bully Rose appears at Hanover with the character of Envoy from the Elector of Saxe: the secret of his ministry is to thank that Court for having helped him out of the scurvy business at Hamburg, and to desire the Elector of Hanover to lend his Master the French comedians.

"I know no more of this Mr. March than that he is a poor man who pretends great interest in your acquaintance, and spoke it with an air as if he wrote to you by your own order and about your own concerns; his letter else should never have come into my packet, nor should I dare to trouble you with any petitions but those that are immediately my own, and which hitherto you have been pleased to receive favourably as I ought always to own." *Copy.* (X. 163.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

169[5–]6, Jan. 7–17. Hague.—"We have been alarmed here these two days by an express from Zeeland which brought advice that the French were arming a squadron of 14 frigates at Dunkirk. The States have ordered a regiment of 600 men, that was here, to march to Helvoet, and sent for as many from Bois le Duc to supply their place. They think the enemy may design to bombard Helvoet or Flushing, but they cannot do much harm in either of these places. We since hear that 'tis only some privateers that the French

were fitting out from Dunkirk; and begin to think we were more frightened than we are likely to be hurt.

"Your Honour receives immediately from Mr. Robinson the Act by which the King of Sweden obliges strangers to become burghers of that kingdom, or not stay in it longer than four months in the year. I will only tell you that the Dutch look upon it to be a breach of all articles of alliance, and a ruin to all commerce." *Copy.* (X. 166.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

169[5–]6, Jan. 14–24. Hague.—"My Lord Villiers yesterday rechanged the ratification for renewing the Grand Alliance with the other ministers in the Congress, and Mr. Norff was desired to use his interest that his master the Elector of Cologne and Bishop of Liége might come into the Alliance.

"Count Kaunitz confirms what I presume Mr. Stepney writes you, that the Emperor is treating with the Elector Palatine that those troops of his which served last year upon the Rhine may go for Hungary.

"His Imperial Majesty endeavours likewise to get into that country the Saxon troops that stayed at home last year. He makes overtures too for some from Hanover; so it is little matter for the Rhine and the Empire, provided the Danube be kept and the Austrian countries and dominions enlarged.

"The Maréchal de Lorges has (I believe you have heard) desired he may not serve on the Rhine this year by reason of his ill-health.

"Our French letters confirm the news of their being resolved to pass the Straits, and that too sooner than was first thought. I heard they have intercepted a letter written from Admiral Rooke to Whitehall, by which he assures you that our rigging and tackle was all worn and bad, and that he had not thirty vessels in a condition of doing any service." *Copy.* (X. 167.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1695–6, Jan. 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I have just now got your bill of extraordinaries allowed, with the article of the Queen's Bounty to Your Worship. I hope you will now think me a good boy. I told Mr. Secretary that Mr. Powys had spoken to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about it, and that it was his opinion that you would lose that 100*l.* per annum, if it was not brought into your extraordinaries. So with a little persuasion it passed." (II. 61.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

169[5-]6, Jan. 17–27. Hague.—"Since His Majesty's going for England this side has afforded little worth writing, or Your Lordship would have been troubled with me much

oftener. By the last posts from France we think they mean in earnest that their fleet shall pass the Straits. Mons. de Chasteau Renaux is at Toulon making all possible preparations in order to it. Mons. de Nesmond is at Brest equipping another squadron from thence ; but both at Brest and Toulon they want seamen. The French have intercepted a letter which Admiral Rooke had written to Whitehall, in which he says he found the fleet in a bad condition as to cordage and rigging, and that he should not be able to have above thirty ships fit to serve. Your Lordship will guess the impatience of this country that the winds may change, and that the squadron designed for the Mediterranean may arrive there in time.

" We were alarmed here some days since with the fear of a visit either at Flushing or Helvoet from our neighbours at Dunkirk, which we hear since they never intended us, it being only some privateers going out and not a squadron with bombs, as was reported.

" The French, Your Lordship knows, intend thirty new regiments to be raised for the spring : the officers were much easier named than the soldiers will be found, which come so hardly that through Luxemburg they oblige every district or *balliage* to provide a number of men proportionable to the bigness of the place ; and will be no way satisfied as formerly with money instead of the men. In their other conquered countries they directly use force ; and in Switzerland they cannot have men for money, which makes Mons. Amelot very angry, especially with the Protestant Cantons, who, he thinks, are underhand more friends to the Allies than becomes their neutrality, and send them Memoirs, which it would be downright rudeness to give to any other people ; however, if the French employ their forces most upon the Rhine, the Allies may have a bad campaign of it, for (to Your Lordship I may say) instead of two armies which we projected to have there, I wish we had but one good. The Emperor is so much concerned for Hungary and the dominions of the Austrian family on that side, that he utterly neglects the Rhine and the safety of the Empire on this. The *Cercles* of Suabia and Franconia can at best but keep up their own twenty thousand : the Ecclesiastic Electors are ruined, and the Elector Palatine, with whom my friend Stepney is at present Envoy, declares positively that he cannot keep five regiments, which he had in the Palatinate, any longer on foot without some assistance towards it ; and in one word neither His Majesty nor Holland will allow him subsidies ; so he is striking up a bargain with the Emperor to have them sent to Hungary, and His Imperial Majesty can, it seems, find money to provide for them there, though he knows not how to let them subsist on the Rhine.

" As to my own private affairs, I did myself the honour in the last I wrote Your Lordship to tell you that His

Majesty has been pleased to continue me here longer, in order, I hope, to employ me somewhere further as his service may require or a vacancy be found: but this will depend upon the Duke of Shrewsbury and my Lord Portland, and as they please to speak or act in my interests, they may advance or retard them: and His Majesty may be shown greater merit to supply what his kindness has already promised me, if I have not some more powerful intercessors with these Ministers than my own letters. Your Lordship sees by all this the favour I would beg of you, to name me to these gentlemen with all my merit, which is to have had the honour of knowing Your Lordship from my childhood, and of having been bred up by you: after such a recommendation I presume I should find but little difficulty in my way. I know I need only mention this thing, and leave the success of it to Your Lordship's usual goodness, begging Your Lordship to believe that I acknowledge myself already by ten thousand obligations, &c." *Copy.* (X. 168.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1695–6, Jan. 31 [–Feb. 10]. Whitehall.—"I have some time since desired a very troublesome and laborious favour of you, and that was, to let me know the names and characters of the several foreign ministers either of the Congress or resident there, and if you could guess their several interests, but of this I have heard nothing; neither do I expect it so soon, it being a work of some time.

"I have a great deal of scrawl upon my hands to-night." (II. 63.)

The Earl of Dorset to Matthew Prior.

[1695–6,] Feb. 10[–20].—"Your last letters were expected by me with great impatience, for I had heard you were not well, and I now conclude 'twas a false report, because you do not mention it. I am sure you would be very unjust if you did not think me concerned enough to know the particulars of whatever happens to you.

"I am sorry your services have not as yet been considered as they ought; my endeavours shall never be wanting to serve you in all I can. Whatever happens, you may assure yourself that you shall always find a real friend here."

Postscript. "Your little translation takes mightily here, as everything that you write ought to do." (II. 64.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

[1695–6, March 6. N.S.]—"The States had news to-day from Nieuport by intelligence out of Dunkirk, which says the squadron there has not yet its complement of men nor materials ready for bombarding, so that it cannot take the advantage of these spring tides to come out, and consequently must wait another month.

"The Zeelanders have laid aside their fears for this time, which were unreasonable enough whilst they lasted, for they had asked the States to send them the four ships, which lie before the Goeree, which would not have been sufficient to resist John Bart in full sea, however it might hinder his coming to Helvoet; or if it were, we think that Helvoet might be bombarded as well as Flushing, and that Holland should be looked to as well as Zeeland. *Proximus ego mihi* is an established rule in these provinces.

"The Swiss companies, about 1,000 men in all, which come from Bergh-op-Zoom and the neighbouring garrisons, remain still at Flushing and Ter Veer. The Zeelanders had indeed some reason to be apprehensive, but I venture to tell Your Honour (what I have from a good hand), Mr. d'Odyck had more, for (*sub sigillo*) he is less beloved at Middelburg than Mr. Boereel at Amsterdam, and was most earnest for the march of the troops I mentioned to the coast, for fear the mob thereabout might take the alarm the French gave them for a pretext of assembling, and follow the steps which those of Amsterdam led them: but (this to yourself alone and not to the Secretary of State) people's mouths are very open against him; no sort of justice can be had from him, and his commissioners and agents. Mr. Lilieroot gave in a memorial some time since to the States General to have a neutral ship released, which was accordingly done by the Admiralty of Zeeland upon a letter to them from the States: no sooner was the ship at liberty but an officer of Middelburg re-seizes her upon a blind account of dues unpaid to the Admiralty. The States are again interested in the matter; the Admiralty of Zeeland denies the thing, and it yet lies undecided, Odyck saving himself by a protest that he knows nothing of it either of the side of the Admiralty or the officer. *Ex pede Hercules;* and I only give Your Honour one instance out of twenty.

"My Lord Villiers has informed Your Honour of Harington's imprisonment, and what I have extorted from him at Rotterdam, that he has been of King James's guard in France; has been a privateering under Vaughan; was at the taking the *Diamond* frigate, and escaped (as he calls it) out of France with Vaughan, whom he parted with at Sluys, met again (by chance only) at Amsterdam, and whom he believes to be gone to Hamburg or Sweden to run away with a ship or do some villany of that kind. I have since been at Amsterdam, but by all the search I could make there I cannot trace Vaughan or the others Wall described, so I have left Wall at Amsterdam, and have ordered matters so that, if he can make any discovery, he may be assisted by the magistracy, and a friend whom I can trust there, in having the persons he names apprehended. In the meantime Sir Paul Rycaut and Mr. Gregg and Robinson are writ to, to inquire if Vaughan be in their parts. I know not if we shall

make much of our plot, for (to conclude this article) I look upon Wall to be one of the greatest villains I ever yet spoke with." *Copy.* (X. 170.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [ARNOLD JOOST VAN] KEPPEL.

169[5–]6, March 9. [N.S.] Hague.—"Je me suis toujours proposé de passer pour un homme un peu modeste, et pour cela je me suis contenté de faire mille voeux en particulier pour votre bien, plutôt que de vous incommoder par des lettres qui ne contiendroient autre chose que des marques de ma sensibilité pour toutes vos honnêtetés. Mais qu'on me prenne pour Irlandois, et qu'on me pende comme Jacobite si je saurois me taire dans cette conjoncture! Bon Dieu, quel attentat! Mais il y a un ciel qui veille sur la personne du Roy, et il y aura un enfer pour abîmer ses ennemis. Je vous prie, Monsieur, de me pardonner cet emportement. Infâme! traître! assassin! parricide! voilà les seuls termes qui me puissent sortir de la bouche: cependant je consens d'oublier pour ce moment ma haine contre ceux qui ne font que du mal, pour dire combien j'estime et honore un homme qui ne prend plaisir qu' à faire du bien. Je puis vous protester, Monsieur, qu'outre que demande de moi en cette occasion pour attachement pour la personne du Roi et mon amour pour la patrie, j'en ai une fort sensible pour ce qui regarde vos intérêts particuliers." *Copy.* (X. 173.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

169[5-]6, March 3–13. Hague.—"Your Lordship's goodness was pleased to pardon my writing sometimes to you the last year. I dare not take that liberty now, being sufficiently assured that my Lord Villiers corresponds constantly with Your Lordship, and that Your Lordship has not leisure enough to be troubled with letters filled only with my acknowledgments of your favours. I could not, however, forbear at this conjuncture to testify to Your Lordship the general joy here, (and my own in particular), for the great miracle God in His mercy has wrought amongst us in preserving His Majesty's person from a conspiracy that no history or age can equal. I make bold to tell Your Lordship that I take what care I ought to have this hellish design displayed in its proper colours here; and I hope the King will send a manifesto to all Courts in Christendom, that no peace can be made with France till King Lewis be driven like Nebuchadnezzar from the society of all human creatures."

Postscript. "I must add that Admiral Russell is upon the French coasts, and has sent the *Centurion* into Ostende for pilots in order to go as far as possible towards Dunkirk. I hear that it will be impracticable for the enemy to save their great vessels, except they have time enough to take out their cannon.

"The wind is North, but blows too fresh for anything to be done to-day, as I hear those say who understand it. God send us good success." *Copy.* (X. 175–6.)

J[OHN] TUCKER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1695–6, March 6 [–16]. Whitehall.—"Our Plot keeps us in such continual hurry that, until the heat of it be a little more over, you must excuse us from writing to you so punctually as we otherwise should do. I hope in few days we shall come to trial of some of the conspirators, three of them, viz., Charnock, Bertram, and Keyes, have orders to prepare for Tuesday next; and I believe their trials will soon be followed with several others, so that one way or other we may expect to have some of our trouble taken off our hands."

Requesting him to buy him "two pieces of good cambric for handkerchiefs." (II. 66.)

LORD DURSLEY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1695–6, March 10 [–20].—"I have had no leisure to set my hand to anything but commitments since the discovery of the Plot, which is the reason that I have not returned sooner my great thanks to Mr. Prior for all his kindness to my son Charles, and particularly that of going to Amsterdam with him, and giving of him the best advice and showing of him his best way of travelling, which he was wholly a stranger to."

"Jemmy happened to be ashore with us in Bedford Row (the first time in ten months) when we heard of the embroil upon the coasts, which made Jemmy very impatient to be aboard again; so we sent him to my Lord Berkeley, and from thence I hear he is returned to his own ship the *Centurion*.

"We hear nothing of Mr. Prior's coming for England, and therefore by the next opportunity intend to send you some cider and ale, supposing English drinks may not be disagreeable to you." (II. 67.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

169[5-]6, March 13–23. Hague.—"The letters from France, which should have been received here on Tuesday, were kept back, and to-day we had both posts together; they are filled with excuses for their Government, in what relates to the conspiration against our King's sacred life; that King Louis intended indeed to re-establish King James, but by open force of arms, and will go on in the same design; that it was expected every day when they should hear that Mons. de Chasteau Renault had passed the Straits: he was not come out, however, the 10th instant; that he would but just touch at Brest, where the Marquis de Nesmond is ready with his squadron to join him, and that they will both come

immediately towards Dunkirk in order to convoy the troops for England. This, indeed, is the least they can say, and probably it is the least they intend: it is certain, however, that King James with all his household is still at Calais, where all things lie ready to be embarked. Whatever they design, I hope our fleet may be in the ocean as soon as theirs. In the meantime, if you will hang villains in England, you will hinder others from coming to you.

"Our fleet is gone further off from the coast of Dunkirk.

"Two hundred small vessels from Bordeaux arrived the 7th at Brest with provisions for the fleet to remain there till the Toulon squadron arrives.

"I make bold to add[ress] to you a French PONT NEUF, by which you will see what opinion some of them have of the descent with which they threaten us." *Copy.* (X. 176.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

169[5-]6, March 17–27. Hague.—"Letters from Paris of the 23rd say that the fleet which was to have sailed from the Isles of Hyères the 13th was not gone the 15th. They say this fleet is to join the squadrons of Brest, Rochefort, and St. Malo, which will consist of twenty-five sail, and to go on with their design against England, which, they say, was retarded only till their fleets were all together; and that King James is in the meantime to live at Boulogne to be ready for his embarking when all things else are so.

"The Court of France takes a great deal of pains to clear itself of having anything to do in the conspiracy against His Majesty, and their emissaries and our neutral friends here take no less. We shall hear from England . . . . . how far their apologies hold good against our conspirators' confessions: in the meantime their being too hasty to be justified is not a very genuine mark of their innocence.

"You will have heard that we have five companies of Bellasis' regiment and five of Earle's taken by three French privateers and carried into Dunkirk. Mons. D'Auerquerque sent to have the men ransomed, but the Governor answered he could do nothing in it without first having orders from the Marquis de Boufflers." *Copy.* (X. 178.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [ARNOLD JOOST VAN] KEPPEL.

169[5-]6, March 17-27. Hague.—"Par les lettres de Paris du 13 Mars '96 on mande que la flotte qui devoit partir de Toulon le 13^{me} ne le fit pourtant pas le 15^{me}. On compte qu'elle doit joindre les escadres de Brest, Rochfort, Port Louis et St. Malo, qu'on dit être de 25 vaisseaux de guerre, que le dessein sur l'Angleterre n'avoit pas été exécuté parce qu'on n'étoit pas assez fort par mer pour le soutenir avant l'arrivée de la flotte de Toulon; que ce dessein s'exécutera aussitôt que toute la flotte sera jointe, et qu'en attendant le Roi Jacques iroit demeurer à Boulogne; on croit pourtant qu'

on ne laisse ce misérable Prince par les côtes que pour sauver les apparences et faire accroire seulement que leur dessein n'est pas encore échoué, et qu'il ne dépendoit pas d'un meurtre et d'un parricide. On prend beaucoup de peine à Versailles pour tâcher d'en disculper le Roi de France ; il y a de ses émissaires ici à la Haye et de nos amis neutres qui n'en prennent pas moins. On parle d'un manifeste que la Cour de France veut publier : je doute fort qu'elle n'ose rien faire avant que de savoir au vrai les preuves qui résulteront du procès fait au coupables en Angleterre. Cinq compagnies du régiment de Bellasis et autant de celui d'Erle ont été pris par les armateurs François et menés a Dunquerque.

" On dit qu'à Paris on a frappé une médaille avec l'effigie de Sa Majesté et des paroles bien outrageantes ; si cela se trouve vrai j'en ferai frapper bien d'autres ici, et par ma foi et ma conscience, comme auroit dit en pareil cas Mons. Jour, je les ferai distribuer de la Hollande jusques à Japon." *Copy.* (X. 177–8.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1695–6, March 20 [–30]. Whitehall.—Desires Prior to send him a book lately published, entitled *Samuelis Puffendorf de rebus gestis Fred*[*erici*] *Wilhelmi Magni Electoris Brandenb* [*urgensis*] *commentariorum lib* 19. *Berolini*, 1695.

" You will find by the paper the three traitors gave to the Sheriff that they acknowledge the fact for which they were condemned. Walbanck was taken this afternoon." (II. 68.)

[Arnold Joost van] Keppel to Matthew Prior.

1695–6, March 20 [–30]. Kensington.—" On ne sçauroit assez remercier la providence divine de la découverte de cet exécrable parricide, dont la pensée doit faire horreur a tous ceux qui aiment la religion protestante et la liberté de l'Europe, qui estoient absolument enveloppé dans l'événement de ce dessein. Je ne m'estonne nullement que vous avez esté très vivement touché de cette nouvelle ; tous les fidels serviteurs du Roy et bons Chrestiens y ont paty égalment ; mais comme leur premier mouvement de crainte et d'embarras est tourné en joye, j'espère que ce meschant dessein des ennemys tournera a l'avantage de nostre auguste monarque, et de tous ceux qui ont l'honneur de le servir." (II. 69.)

Matthew Prior to [James] Vernon.

169[5-]6, March 20–30. Hague.—" I am extremely obliged to you for your favour of the 13-23 with the enclosed account of the trials of the greatest villains that ever were yet heard of, except those only that set them to work. My Lord Villiers will give you his thanks for it, and so I presume will your son Stepney, to whom I send a copy to-morrow morning. The

Pensioner of Holland ought to send you a medal and chain, for I have communicated it to him, as he has done to the States. I am glad you forgive my troubling you sometimes with what passes here; 'tis far from compliment that I tell you I think it my duty to do so. I ought not to forget, though perhaps you do, that I owe it in great measure to your advice and kindness that I am got thus far, and you must not be angry with me if I consult you, which is the way to get further. You know how it is with me here; I have my appointments and lie fallow; I have ambition enough to desire to do something for the bread they give me, though I have no reason to complain that they give it me for doing very little. Whenever I go forward, it is to be, I presume, in the track I am in. Our patrons would ask, if they knew for what Mr. Hill succeeds Mr. Wolseley at Brussels, what is to become of Mr. Wolseley, and who goes to Venice and Florence? or must the Northern Crowns or Brandebourg have anybody sent to them? *Omne solum forti patria est.* Believe me this letter is neither the effect of spleen or ambition, but downright to ask his advice who, I think, is more capable to give it than any man else I know." *Copy.* (X. 180–1.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1695-6, March 24 [-April 3]. Whitehall.—"I have yours of the 13-23 instant with your bill of extraordinaries, which I carried to Mr. Tucker, who would not allow of your exceeding 20s. a day, so was forced, where you had made it 39*l.* for letters, to cut off its tail and make the 9 a cypher; with which he passed it, making no exception to the three other additional articles, and our Treasury have ordered tallies to be given for all your bills, which I shall strick [*sic*] this week and dispose of them as you shall direct. The whole payable to you is 594*l.* 9*s.*

"I desire you will be pleased to acquaint my Lord Villiers that tallies are likewise ordered for His Lordship's bills of extraordinaries." (VIII. 135.)

Matthew Prior to [Arnold Joost van] Keppel.

1696, April 3. N.S. Hague.—Complimentary letter, acknowledging the unexpected honour of Keppel's reply to his former letter. *French. Copy.* (X. 181.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696, March 31 [–April 10].—Whitehall. "I am really not able to tell you to what post Wolseley will be assigned, nor do I find he knows himself, for he writes to me by this post to give him some light into it, but I can't satisfy him. If your friends are in the humour to move the King in your behalf, I would not have you balk their fancy; nor is it necessary in my judgment to prescribe a place to the King. If there be more stations than one in Italy, Mr. Wolseley

can't pretend to fill them all, and if you come in for a second choice, I suppose you will be well enough contented. I think you may rely on my Lord [Shrewsbury]'s assistance when the matter is ripe for resolution, but I do not know how proper the conjuncture is at present.

"Pray give my respects to my Lord Villiers, and let him know that I have it from one of our divines who is newly come from Sir William Perkins, that he has owned to him he saw and read the commission of King James, which Porter speaks of in his evidence; but he hath not as yet explained himself any further. I know not what he may do, for this evening His Majesty hath signed a reprieve both for Sir William Perkins and Sir John Friend, to put off the execution till Friday." (II. 71.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1696, May 15 [–25]. Whitehall.—"I have received this morning your letter of the 12th, and with it your ingenious lines upon His Majesty's arrival. I will not commend you because I will not reproach you; for ignorant men's commendations are oftentimes such. Another reason I have for it is that, had I an understanding and skill enough to judge of poetry, I would forbear to praise you, for fear it should make you vain, which you know that I know you are already. I will, however, venture to say this much, that they please me, and I have read some parts of them three or four times over this day, though it be a post.

"I took care of all the others you sent me, and had them carefully delivered.

"When I begged the trouble of you to buy me some cambric, I begged nothing but the trouble; and I am sorry you forbid me giving you any further troubles of that kind by telling me, in effect—*To be rid of this impertinent fellow I will give him two pieces of cambric.* This may be a sense naturally enough put upon your kindness, and I am sure I have reason to take it so, unless I had more reason to deserve it: however, I thank you for it. I believe I shall receive it to-morrow.

"Forgive this scribble. I am hastening to go to some company, a thing I seldom do." (II. 72.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1696, May 15 [–25]. Whitehall.—"Your writing to me what passes on that side is so far from needing an excuse, that, if you did forbear it, after I have so often invited you to it, I should think I had reason not to pardon you for refusing me that satisfaction, which I cannot receive so entire from any other hand; and therefore desire you will continue it, whether you are in court or camp. But it seems they are not willing you should go into the field, and I think they are in the right, for I know no field that can produce so good poetic fruits as The Hague does. which are admirable; and

I thank you very heartily for my share of them. The mighty theme has suggested proportionable words and thoughts, and you have outdone yourself on this happy occasion of His Majesty's preservation, as you used to outdo others on other subjects; and though I am unwilling to deny you anything you ask, yet I cannot allow you to be a better secretary than a poet, but must make you amends in saying you have found the secret of joining two things generally thought incompatible, poetry and business, and both in perfection.'' *Signed.* (II. 73.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1696, May 19 [–29]. Whitehall.—'' I give you the trouble of this by Mr. Secretary [Trumbull]'s order. who courts your correspondence, wherein he takes a particular delight; and therefore, though he writ to you himself last post, I am to acquaint you that he desires you will not fail to give him the satisfaction of letting him hear from your hand what passes concerning the war, and proposals of peace, what progresses the one makes, and what are made in the latter, if any.''

'' Having performed my commands, I am in my own name to return you thanks, though disproportionate to the present you have made me of your excellent poem on the King's preservation, which will preserve and perpetuate the memorial of it.'' (II. 74.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696, May 26 [–June 5]. Whitehall.—I like your poem so '' well that I am not satisfied you intend it shall be your last. Everybody has not my excuse that they are otherwise fully employed; I wish it were your case; but if you have intervals, I know not why you should not continue to make use of them for the honour of our Master and your own. If I should desire you not to seek your discharge till we have better writers, I should prescribe you a long term.'' (II. 75.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1696, June 2 [–12]. Whitehall.—'' We are here under all the difficulties on account of our coin that can be imagined, all payments stopped and foreign bills protested, nor will any body so much as touch a tally. I have in my hands 594*l.* 9*s.*, whereof I paid Mr. Storer 60*l.*, and for fees for your bill of extraordinaries and for your tallies 32*l.* 14*s.*'' (VIII. 143.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1696, June 2 [–12]. Whitehall.—Complaining that the pieces of cambric have been changed in the post for pieces of coarser texture, having been sent, not in a box, but '' in a brown paper which was broken open, and afterwards sealed

up again in white paper.'' Requesting further news of the proposals for peace; and wishing that Prior's bills of extraordinaries were to be sent every post, so that he might receive more letters from him. (II. 77.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1696, June 12–22. Hague.—'' I have very little to trouble Your Lordship with more than (as Sir Fleetwood used to say) *who went over the other side;* or if I had any more, Your Lordship has it from my Masters. People will have it here that in the midst of war we are thinking of peace, and that M. Cagliere [Callières] is somewhere *incognito* in Holland. Some that have formerly known him pretend to have seen him at Amsterdam; however that may be, it is certain that Monsieur Dyckveldt has lately made several little journeys out of the way; which would not be so remarkable if the man loved either a mese (*sic*) or a mistress, but as it is they think it politics, and argue him wise from his dulness, &c.''

'' N.B. The rest of this letter was my own affairs, which God prosper.'' *Copy.* (X. 184.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1696, June 30 [–July 10]. Whitehall.—'' I have paid your bill of one hundred pounds in guineas; but for your tallies I cannot think of disposing of them, nor will I offer at it until your affairs require an absolute necessity for doing of it. The straits we are in for want of money is not to be imagined; and if I were now to discount your tallies, I cannot get them done in new money or guineas for 20 per cent.* This is indeed intolerable, and instead of mending, which we every day have expected, it grows worse and worse. There is between 7 and 800,000*l.* new coined, and yet hardly any of it appears about the town; they now coin 70,000*l.* a week, but I know not when we shall have it run plenty.''

'' Mr. Tucker hath got your bill of extraordinaries allowed. You will do well, if you please, to write to Mr. Montague that you cannot get your tallies discounted but at an extravagant loss, and beg his favour in ordering this bill, and the quarter, if possible, in money.'' (VIII. 155).

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696, June 30 [–July 10]. Whitehall.—'' Mr. Methuen is appointed one of the Commissioners for Trade, but I believe

* Other letters of Powys of a little later date refer to the great lack of ready cash. On Aug. 25 he writes:—'' I do not believe I can get the money advanced under 30 pounds per cent.; you may guess by this what a condition we are in, and how scarce money is here ''; and on Nov. 6 following he adverts again to the '' want of money '' and '' complaints that are made about it, from the highest to the lowest; many people who would mortgage their plate and jewels,'' being unable to '' get money upon them.'' (VIII. 159—171).

he has no great mind to change his post for it ; he is well satisfied with what he hath, and before he relinquishes it he would gladly to see of what duration this Commission is like to be, at least whether it is like to outlive the next sessions of Parliament ; and therefore he proposes to come over to take possession no otherwise than by substituting his son in Portugal, that he may be at liberty either to return back or continue a Methuen still at Lisbon. You see he is for playing a sure game ; but I don't know that his coming away will be required upon those terms, and am most inclined to think he may stay there.

" I desire you will forward the enclosed to Mr. Breuil, who writes the *Lardon.*" (II. 78.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1696, July 7 [–17]. Whitehall.—" I value your kind letters as I ought to do ; and would oftener write you my acknowledgments if I had anything besides to accompany them. But here we have as little news as money, and since there is none of this stirring, 'tis well the people do not.

" I do most heartily thank you for the accounts you give me of M. Caliere [Callières], and when you hear further of his motions and what they are like to produce, you can't oblige me more than by letting me hear from you. The same favour I desire when you are informed of M. Plessen's negotiation, and of the design of the transport-ships which are preparing in Zealand. I assure you both in this and all other matters of my inviolable secrecy, and that nobody (either on this or your side of the water) shall know anything of our correspondence. I believe Mr. Tucker has formerly sent you word of my readiness to sign your bills." (II. 79.)

Matthew Prior to ———

1696, July 15–25. Hague.—" We expect you will either make war or peace in good earnest. M. Calliere is still amongst us, if you will have the latter ; and both the Emperor and the King of France (we say) must leave the giving back or dismantling of Strasbourg to the King of England's mediation after the other points are adjusted. If you intend war, Mr. Dyckvelt has borrowed (you will have known) three millions (Holland's money) of Amsterdam at 5 per cent., the States being security for the interest ; and with this you are to besiege Dunkirk, get to it as you can.

" The disorders of our [ex]change are such as I do not see where it will end, since the Schepens of Amsterdam will have no regard to our bank bills or goldsmiths' notes, and have adjudged no bills returned from England to be worthily answered except they are all paid in ready money, which all the English say is impossible for them to comply with ; in the meantime there is 12 per cent. difference between bills

answered by bank and those in ready money, and all the mediums our merchants offer (of defraying half in ready money and half in bank bills, or of having this difference regulated by a public order and the disproportion settled to some certain sum) are all found ineffectual.

"If M. Cailliere is at Amsterdam, he will know that this makes a greater noise there than my Lord Berkeley does upon the coasts of Brittany." *Copy.* (X. 185.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF DORSET,] LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

1696, July 21–31.—"The last letters we received from Flanders left the King marching his army towards Cambron by Ath, where he arrived on Sunday night. His design is either to force the French lines in case Mons. de Boufflers does not move that way, or to observe him if he does, whilst Prince Vaudemont besieges Dunkirk (we say), but whilst he bombards it, is I believe the utmost we propose. 'Tis for this end that stores and ammunition of all kind are ready at Nieuport, and the Dutch squadron with the bomb-vessels now before Ostend will bombard Dunkirk by sea, whilst the Prince does the same by land. There is little question but that the Duke of Savoy's truce will end in a peace. He is too far in the French hands to think of retrieving what he has done, and would be a fool to imagine the Allies would ever pardon him for having been a knave in abandoning them. Our French letters say that Monsieur is going to Lyon with a great equipage to meet the young Princess.

"Our fleet has done no great exploits on the coasts of Brittany and Poitiers. The French say our sea-bombarding is throwing English crowns to break their glass-windows.

"The talk of a peace cools extremely. I know not if we have withstood our market, or if the French never yet proposed anything to be accepted.

"Our war in Hungary is managed with the usual prudence. Temeswar was to have been besieged, and when the Germans were within five miles of the place, they found they had forgot powder, bullets, pioneers, and pickaxes." *Copy.* (X. 186.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, July 24 [-August 3]. Whitehall.—"I can now tell you that" Mr. Methuen "comes over to be at the opening of the Parliament, and designs to leave his son his curate, whom he has sent for on purpose from Italy. I perceive, if he then find the Commission of Trade like to stand, and that Portugal may go by entail upon the heirs male, he will stay here; otherwise he will be slipping back into his post again. So that I don't see what great expectancy you can have there, but you do well to be alert and on the watch, and I hope your next attempt (whatever it may be) will succeed better." (II. 80.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1696, August 22 [-Sept. 1]. Easthampstead.—"I am got into the country for a few days, and would willingly follow the advice of our good friend Horace, *Ducere solicitae jucunda oblivia vitae.* Here I received the satisfaction, and heartily thank you for it, of your kind letter of the 19–29 inst. By this I find that the great article of peace or war is still very uncertain; and the other, as to the Princess of Brandenburg, very mysterious. However, these matters cannot but excite my curiosity, and make me renew my request to you, that at such a crisis as this you would continue to be more watchful than ever. I rely so much on your friendship, which, I assure you, I will ever inviolably preserve, that I desire you by every post to give me the most particular accounts you can, and that you will trust me with an exact character of this Princess of Brandenburg, as to her person, age, humour, and everything; for I cannot but begin to think there is something in all this noise."* (II. 83.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

[1696, Sept. 4. N.S.]—"I have not troubled Your Lordship with our guesses and wagers concerning a peace, since I could not speak of it till now with any certainty. The mystery is at length out, for yesterday the Pensioner of Holland told the ministers at the Congress the effect of Mons. Dyckvelt and Mons. Caillier's [Callières'] meetings; that France would consent to a peace upon the foot of the Westphalia and Nimègue treaties; and that if the several ministers would write to their Masters, they might upon these grounds begin to treat.

"The ministers of our smaller German allies are really concerned and angry at these appearances, for *subsidies* is the word with them, and they would sell us war as long as we have money or tallies. Our Imperial ministers, though they really desire a peace, would have it thought that we court them to it; they made difficulties about what was meant by the Treaty of Westphalia, to which it was answered that that would be explained, and what was now proposed was only a ground-work on which they were to proceed.

"This is the state of our affairs here. We expect shortly to hear of plenipotentiaries named with my Lord Villiers for the treaty. I must trouble Your Lordship with a word concerning my own affairs at this conjuncture.

"I have reason to expect to be Secretary to the Embassy, having served five years on the place, and being able to plead a sort of prescription to it; but nothing is sure at a Court, and though I have not many enemies, others may have better friends. Lord Villiers will contribute as much

* *I.e.*, a rumour that the King was disposed to marry the Princess. *Cf.* Luttrell *Brief Historical Relation*, iv. 94, 101.

as is in his power to my having this thing, and Your Lordship will, I am sure, send me a line from yourself to my Lord Portland in my behalf, which would fix it beyond dispute whilst the King is yet on our side. I beg Your Lordship to pardon me eternally troubling you; I am conscious of it, but cannot tell how to help it, and I seem as much to challenge a right to Your Lordship's favour to me, as you ought to do to my entire obedience and duty to your commands.

"We have had news these last two posts that the Grand Monarch has been very ill; the French post this morning confirms it. He has a swelling in his neck, which is a kind of pestsore, for which he has been blistered and scarified, and is not out of danger. We are praying devoutly for his good passage, and would fain have our peace signed by Louis the Fifteenth. Great preparations are making for the reception of the young Princess of Savoy: the Duchess of Créquy and the Duke of Choiseul are to meet her. We talk very much of a marriage on our side between the King and the Princess of Brandenburg, but I think without much ground, as far as I can see into the matter. One of the parties only are resolved; the King however intends to pay them a visit at Clèves; we shall then see if we ought to distinguish between love and civility." *Copy.* (X. 189.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696, Sept. 1 [–11].—Whitehall. "My Lord Duke returns an answer to what you sent him, and was glad of the opportunity to serve you, as you have the best pretensions and have put in your claim early; I hope you will meet with no disappointment. This hath put me upon considering who may be the most likely to be your rival, and I can't think of any one except Mr. [Daniel] Pulteney; and that I imagine will only happen in case my Lord Romney be one of the plenipotentiaries."*

Postscript. "To show you my Lord Duke expects you should have this secretaryship, he bids me bespeak you to reserve a clerk's place for a young gentleman he intends to send over for that occasion, who is now bred in this office, and is the son of Mr. Rowley, whom His Grace hath a particular kindness for. And his son is a youth of great hopes, who writes very prettily, and will copy very well both in Latin and French; and when he hath had this improvement, he is to be returned us again." (II. 86.)

Treaty of Turin.

Lord Lexington and Mons. Heemskerk to the Emperor.

1696, Sept. 16. [N.S.]—Memoir urging the continuance of the war in Italy, notwithstanding the Duke of Savoy's

* Cf. Buccleuch MSS. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) II. Pt. I. 391, 397-8; Pt. II. 401-3.

secession from the Alliance*; for if the neutrality be accepted "la France sera délivrée d'une guerre qui lui coûte le double de ce qu'elle lui coûterait ailleurs, de sorte qu'au lieu de 36,000 hommes qu'elle y a à présent, elle en entretiendra 72[000] avec les mêmes sommes. Outre qu'elle pourra se prévaloir des garnisons de Pignerol, Suze et Nizza aussi bien que des troupes qu'elle tient pour la défense des côtes de mer, et cette augmentation de force, employée ailleurs, est suffisante pour faire diversion, tellement que de tous côtés nous serons réduits à une guerre défensive, et à la dernière extrémité dans les lieux où la foudre tombera, et il faut être aveugle pour ne pas voir quelle paix s'en ensuivra. D'autre côté la guerre cessant en Italie, les Alliés n'en pourront tirer plus de 20,000 hommes, et Dieu sait si alors on saura où il les faudra mettre, et ainsi au lieu de souffrir pendant quelque peu de temps quelque incommodité dans le Milanois, nous verrons l'ennemi, dominant en Catalogne, s'emparer de royaumes et de provinces entières sans que les autres Alliés, quelque bonne volonté qu'ils eussent de le faire, le puissent empêcher. C'est en Italie qu'il faut défendre la Catalogne comme Scipion défendit l'Italie en Afrique; d'ailleurs la chose n'est pas désespéré; nous avons vu en d'autre temps qu'il n'est pas si facile de subjuguer l'Etat de Milan, et ce ne sera pas la première fois que Valence s'est défendue vaillamment, et qu'Alexandrie a été assiégée sans avoir été prise dans les conjonctures où l'Espagne n'avoit pas les amis qu'elle a à présent. Il n'y a qu'à temporiser, et qui empêchera qu'on n'y envoye, même avant l'hiver, des forces suffisantes pour faire tête à nos ennemis et nous assurer des quartiers d'hiver, ce ne seront pas les ennemis assurément. Notre négligence en sera la seule cause puis qu'il est certain que les Alliés ont beaucoup plus de troupes que les François, s'ils prenoient les mesures, et qu'ils eussent la promptitude que l'on doit s'efforcer d'avoir dans de semblables extrémités, et ils seroient bientôt dans une supériorité en Italie suffisante pour y trouver des quartiers et tirer, s'ils le vouloient, une partie de leur entretien de ceux qui ont donné occasion à ces nouveaux troubles. Pour cette fin nous offrons à V.M.I. et au service public une flotte dans la Méditerranée et de concourir de la part de nos Maîtres tout ce qui est requis pour y continuer la guerre par terre avec apparence de succès." *Copy.* (XV. 1–5.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1696, Sept. 11 [–21]. Whitehall.—"There having been such advances made towards a treaty for a general peace that now it is no longer a secret, I hope it is no crime to desire you the favour to let me know the conditions upon which it is proposed, and which the Pensioner in a full assembly made known to the several plenipotentiaries in a

* Cf. Lexington Papers, ed. Manners Sutton, p. 221.

full deduction of all the overtures that had been made by the French ministers. Others pretend to have them, and I have seen them ; but can scarce believe them to be right, because we have them not here from those from whom we ought to expect them . . . . But I will venture to tell you a secret, and that is, that we have received more just and perfect accounts of this matter from hands less concerned to send them, than we have had from The Hague, from whence they ought to have come.

"The town is full of discourse here as well of the death of the King as Queen of Spain, and wagers laid every day of it, which makes us impatient to receive our letters from abroad.

"If the treaty goes on, I wish you success in your pretension to be Secretary to the Embassy, and should be glad if any good office I could do you to Mr. Secretary would any ways contribute to it." (II. 87.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1696, Sept. 15–25. Hague.—"The courier which we have expected from Vienna arrived on Sunday night, and Count Aversperg went with him to Loo. The Emperor's answer is, I hear, first, that Aix-la-Chapelle should be the place to treat, so that he takes himself to have the sole right of naming ; secondly, the entire restitution of Lorraine ; and thirdly, the ten Imperial towns of Alsace to be restored, though the French had them by the Treaty of Münster. I know not how reasonable the first of these points will seem to His Majesty, or the two latter to Mons. Caglier [Callières] ; but this I know, that the Dutch Ministry are all for hastening a peace, and are impatient till His Majesty's arrival here, in order to the making some public step in this affair. My Lord Villiers will (I think without doubt) be one of the plenipotentiaries ; we name Lord Pembroke and Sir William Trumbull for the other two : the least we say that the best civil lawyer in England can do for her is to make this peace. His Majesty has pleased to approve my being secretary (though as yet I do not say so) ; and it would augment that honour sensibly to me if I might have you for my master." *Copy.* (X. 194.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles] Montagu.

[1696, Sept.]—"As no man ever had so good a patron, so certainly no man had ever such occasion for him as I at this time. My tallies I cannot sell under thirty per cent. loss ; my aunt will not send me one farthing ; the chain and medal the States gave me is at pawn ; I have but two pistoles in the house or (to say plainly) in the world, and I have every morning a *levée* (God be thanked for the respite of Sunday) of postmen, stationers, tailors, cooks and wine-merchants who have not been paid since last December. This is the state of the matter : there needs no great oratory

to engage your affections and raise your compassion. If you can get me any ready money, it would be more charity than to give an alms to the poorest dog that ever gave you a petition; if not, patience is a virtue, and a scrap or two of Horace must be my consolation. It is as good starving in employment as out, so I have used my friends' interest to get to be Secretary to the Embassy to this Peace, of which we are all talking; and I have got it with the advantage of having the King say that he was satisfied with my service, and thought my requests reasonable. I am infinitely obliged to my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury in this affair, and I wish you, dear Master, would let His Grace know as much." *Copy.* (X. 195.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

Memoir presented to the Congress by M. Schmettau on behalf of the Elector of Brandenburg.

1696, Sept. 18–28.—The Elector is of opinion "que si la France déclare en forme authentique de vouloir rétablir pour fondement de la négociation de la paix les Traités de Westphalie et de Nimègue sans exception ou limitation, il seroit de l'intérêt des Hauts Alliés d'entrer sur ce fondement en traité avec la France sous la médiation de Sa Majesté le Roy de Suède dès qu'on auroit nommé et seroit convenu du lieu pour traiter; il paroissoit être de l'intérêt des Alliés de ne pas accrocher le Traité de Paix à cette nomination et choix du lieu, mais d'en convenir incessamment afin de savoir au plutôt si la dite déclaration de la France est satisfactoire ou non; au premier cas on pourroit de la part des Alliés requérir conjointement Sa Majesté le Roy de Suède de se vouloir charger de la médiation et d'entamer le traité; au second on auroit besoin de réclamer la garantie de Sa Majesté pour obtenir de la France le dit fondement de la négociation; et afin que la France ne pût interpréter que par l'acceptation de ce qu'elle déclarera de la manière susdite sur le fondement de la négociation les Alliés se désisteront de leurs prétentions ultérieures, on pourroit de leur part se précautionner par une contredéclaration à donner pareillement entre les mains du Médiateur, y reservant toutes leurs prétensions ultérieures pour les déclarer lorsqu'on sera entré en traité." *Copy.* (XV. 68.)

William Blathwayt to Sir Paul Rycaut.

1696, Sept. 19-29. Loo.—Instructing him to warn the magistrates of Hamburg and of other Hanse towns not to enter into negotiations with the Scots' East India Company, who are building ships at Hamburg and treating for privileges, as the King is informed, whereby the rest of His Majesty's subjects are likely to be injured; nor have the Scots any credentials for this purpose. *Copy.* (XVII. I.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

Memoir by Lord Lexington and M. Heemskerk presented to the Ministers of the Emperor.

1696, Sept. 29. [N.S.] Ebersdorf.—They deem the Emperor would ruin the prospects of peace "en accrochant le Congrès des Ministres à une explication de la Paix de Münster par le reces de Nuremberg et la satisfaction préalable de l'Espagne. Si ces deux points dépendoient de nos Maîtres, ils seroient tout aussitôt accordés, mais comme ils dépendent de nos ennemis, et qu'il n'y a pas la moindre apparence qu'ils fassent ce pas, la question n'est plus comment il faut conduire cette affaire, et ce qui nous conviendroit, mais si l'état de nos affaires nous conseille d'entrer en négociation de paix sur ce que nous avons déjà, ou bien de rompre tout traité et commerce avec la France en nous chargeant des succès douteux dont une guerre opiniâtre et sujette à force d'accidents est accompagnée. Nos Maîtres croyent que la prudence ne permet pas que nous nous exposions à ces nouveaux hasards sans nous assurer auparavant de ce que sans aucun engagement de notre côté l'on peut avoir ; et soit dit confidemment à vos Excellences, ils ont de plus une raison particulière, qui est de ne pas passer auprès de leurs peuples pour ceux qui ne veulent pas de paix, qui de l'autre côté étants persuadés du contraire, et voyants ces acheminements, seront par là animés à contribuer gaiement aux frais de la guerre pour l'avoir bonne. Ces raisons solides, où le service public a part, seroient de grande force et l'emporteroient, si l'on n'étoit malheureusement préoccupé (comme nous le craignons) que nous voulons la paix à quel prix que ce soit, et qu' arrivés au Congrès, on la fera sans avoir égard aux intérêts des Hauts Alliés. Cependant il ne sera pas hors de propos que vos Excellences connoissent que les dits soupçons (s'il est vray qu' on les aye) sont très mal fondés : nous n'alléguerons pas que ce que nos Maîtres ont faits et essayés pour le service public durant le cours de cette guerre mériteroit quelque confiance, mais nous nous arrêterons à ce qui parle de soi même et n'admet pas, à notre avis, de contradiction. Personne ne peut nier que si l'intention de nos Maîtres étoit de vouloir si inconsidérément la paix comme on pourroit se l'imaginer, ils ne seroient pas si mal avisés que de contredire à la neutralité en Italie ; au moins ne le feroient ils pas avec l'empressement qu'ils font en offrant de s'engager à des nouvelles et très grandes dépenses. Ils pourroient ménager cet argent et arriver tout aussi bien à leur but ; mais c'est une preuve convainquante que s'ils souhaitent la paix ils la veulent avoir bonne. Et la crainte que le Roi d'Angleterre et Messieurs les Etats pourroient se contenter des offres faites par la France, et que par là la paix seroit précipitée, seroit bonne et fondée, s'ils ne pouvoient sans un Congrès faire la même chose, et avec moins d'éclat

que lorsqu'on auroit eu la complaisance de s'y rendre à leur instance et prière. Au contraire on acquiert par là une espèce de nouveau droit pour empêcher qu'on ne la fasse si ce n'est d'un consentement unanime ; et si l'on y prend garde de près, on trouvera que les formalités d'un Congrès public et d'autres accidents qui le suivent nous assurent de la continuation de la guerre pour un temps, ce qui dans l'autre cas ne seroit pas. Nous vous assurons, donc, Messieurs, que ce n'est nullement l'intention de Sa Majesté Britannique et de Leurs Hautes Puissances qu'on se contente des deux Paix, mais elles appuyeront les demandes et prétentions ultérieures de leurs Alliés de tout leur pouvoir, et au de là de ce qu'on s'en imagine, la guerre leur ayant coûté trop de sang de leurs sujets et trop d'argent pour la changer mal à propos dans une mauvaise paix, et pour les fortifier dans ce louable dessein nous ne demandons que confiance et quelque déférence à des représentations sincères qui méritent assurément réflection.

Nous espérons que Sa Majesté Impériale se dignera de considérer ces motifs qui jusques ici n'ont pas étés couchés par écrit, et se laissera persuader par là de changer la réponse que nous venons de recevoir jusques là qu'elle n'accroche aux points susdits la médiation de la Suède et la nomination d'un lieu pour le Congrès sans lequel la médiation ne peut pas avoir son effet.'' *Copy.* (XV. 10–11.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696, Sept. 22 [-Oct. 2]. Whitehall.—'' I am very glad you laid in betimes and have secured a post which is so much your due. You would otherwise in all probability have had a rival that neither of us thought of. Sir William Trumbull, I hear, is designed for one of the plenipotentiaries ; I don't think he would have made it his choice, if he could handsomely avoid it. But if he goes, he intends to take Mr. [John] Ellis with him, from whence I conclude he [Ellis] expected to be Secretary of the Embassy, he having partly officiated in that function at Nimegen while Chudleigh and Sir Leoline Jenkins were upon such ill terms that they did not see one another. But the matter is settled, and I hope we shall hear no more of it . . . . When you are ready for your commission, His Grace [Shrewsbury] will send over the young gentleman [Rowley] he hath recommended to you, and you will hardly find one of his years that will be more useful and less troublesome.'' (II. 88).

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1696, Oct. 9. N.S.—'' The King is expected here to-night ; the State of the War is ready for his signing, and nothing is likely to keep him long on this side, provided the courier were returned from Vienna. We think the Imperial Court will rebate a little of its stiffness as to the point of Lorraine, and accordingly hope to see some steps made in the

great negotiation. Cagliere [Callières] is about an hour from hence, and will continue there, I hear, till we have this answer which we all look after so earnestly.

"The French are wisely preparing for war as if they designed no peace; they are raising recruits in all the frontier countries, though they are embarrassed enough to pay them, which Cagliere has not stuck to confess; and his *beau mot* is that we must make a peace on all sides, for we cannot make a war.

"We have from Paris that the Marquis de Nesmond is returned with his squadron to Brest; as is likewise Mons. Renaud: the latter has been westward, towards Havana, with design to catch the Spanish Fleet coming out. He is relieved from that service by Mons. de Gennes, but the Spaniards have had warning long enough and have reinforced their convoy, so that we hope they are safe." *Copy.* (X. 197.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to MR. CARDONNEL.

1696, Oct. 6-16. Hague.—"The account I think stood thus between us. I had laid out for Mr. Blathwayt.:—

	1266*l.*	12*s.*
The bookseller's bill for newspapers comes to ..	154*l.*	13*s.*
Skeltus	128*l.*	5*s.*
My account to Mr. Blathwayt for postage	226*l.*	9*s.*
Your account	584*l.*	16*s.*
	2360*l.*	15*s.*

Per contra.

Received from Mr. Schuylemberg .. .. .. 2000*l.*
„ „ Mr. Cardonnel a bag of .. 320*l.*
2360*l.* 15*s.*—2320*l.*

"I think I am right in this account. If I mistake, you may easily rectify it by yours.

"Your tailors bring me this enclosed bill of 188 gild—which I have paid. I therefore send you the bill you left me upon Mr. Hill and desire you to send me another for the residue, to make even between us. Pray send me word if there be any hopes that I may dispose of tallies, for else I am undone.

Duns come so boldly,
King's money so slowly." *Copy.* (X. 198.)

SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, Oct. 6 [-16]. Whitehall.—"Though you do not positively tell me you have a grant of being Secretary to the Embassy of the treaty for the general peace, yet I suppose, by what you write, you have so good a promise that it will not be unreasonable to give you joy of it. We are here in perfect joy for the safe and unexpected return of His Majesty this morning at Margate. He intends to sup at Kensington to-night, which is a great journey after a pretty long voyage." *Signed.* (II. 91.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

1696, Oct. 9–19. Hague.—"Mr. Dyckvelt went again on Wednesday last to visit Cagliere [Callières], and, I think, the result of their conference was only to show that they could chicane on both sides, Dyckvelt pressing Cagliere to declare that he offered the treaties of Westphalia and Nimègue *sans réserve*, and the other holding to it, that he had sufficiently explained himself when he offered the Treaties, and could include no new addition on that offer: this Dyckvelt brought yesterday to the Congress, and it served the Ministry to talk of, but is (I believe Your Grace will think) no great matter in reality, since the treaties as Cagliere has offered them are sufficient foundations for a Congress to build on, and when they come to do so, it will be impossible but that claims and reserves in several little things will be asked and granted reciprocally on both sides.

"Our express in the mean is come from Vienna, and I hear he brings word that the Emperor persists to have the treaty in some place of the Empire, and provided it be so, he will leave the naming the place to the King or the States; but he will consent to nothing else, and gives for reason that the Princes of the Empire have more to concert in the making the peace than all the rest of the Allies.

"Mons. D'Auversperg will acquaint His Majesty particularly of this affair; however, I thought it my duty to acquaint Your Grace with what I could hear of it.

"Mons. Renault, who returned some days since into Rochelle much shattered, is there equipping ten men-of-war, which will be ready in two months; the design of his going out again is thought to regard America." *Copy.* (X. 199.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, Oct. 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—Describing a serious accident to the Duke of Shrewsbury while hunting, which prevents him from answering Prior's letters. (II. 93.)

SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, Oct. 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—"I . . . . join with you in your wishes that we were well over this first rub and all others that stand in the way to what is much to be desired, if it can be come at fairly and honourably; and if the foundation proposed be not sufficient ground to build the fabric upon withont enlarging it by interpretations, as is now proposed, it is to be feared the whole may fall to the ground." Requesting further news. *Signed.* (II. 94).

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1696, Oct. 16–26. Hague.—"Mons. Dyckvelt alarmed the Congress yesterday morning by telling them that Mons. Cailiere [Callières] said to him in a conference the day before,

that he had never offered Luxemburg otherwise than demolished. Don Quiros, you will easily imagine, took fire at this, and though his anger was more intelligible than his reasonings, the whole Congress were of opinion than his difficulty was to be taken off before it was possible for any step to be made further; which will cost Dyckvelt another visit to-morrow, and will be the subject upon which he is to be baited on Monday.

"The Imperialists are still obstinate to have the place of treaty in the Empire, though it is thought they will come to in this point, as they have done in the others of having the treaties of Westphalia and Nimègue the basis of the peace without adding either *sans réserve* or *dans leur entier* to them so that, as well as I can trace what is kept a secret here, the Preliminary Articles are :—

"The treaties of Westphalia and Nimègue the foundation of the Peace.

"The King to be acknowledged.

"Strasbourg to be restored in the state France took it.

"Luxemburg as it now is (to be settled), all reunions since the Peace of Nimègue to be restored." *Copy.* (X. 201.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.]

1696, Nov. 2. [N.S.] Hague.—"We are chicaning here about the preliminaries of a peace, on which it is no wonder if we do not agree, since so many different parties are concerned, who think not much of each other's interests, nor rightly explain their own. There has been a difficulty about the ten Imperial towns in Alsace which the House of Austria gave up to the French by the treaty of Münster in 1648. The French think they have right to govern them absolutely in their own ways; the Imperialists allow them only *la préfecture provinciale*, as they call it, which was all they had, and consequently all they could give. The ministers have referred the question they could not decide as being not proper for the preliminaries, but what ought to be handled when they come to treat.

"The affair of Lorraine is likewise agreed on by both parties not to be mentioned in the preliminaries. There is another difficulty of very great consequence, Cailiere [Callières] saying he never offered Luxemburg otherwise than in the state in which France took it, and Dyckvelt having understood him all along to have meant it in the state it now is in. The whole Congress and particularly the Spanish and Dutch ministers, have charged Dyckvelt to tell his *incognito* friend that, if he does not recede from this point, all hopes of a treaty are utterly cut off. Cailiers says he cannot do it without express order from the Court, which accordingly he has writ for, though I look upon this to be an artifice of Cailiere, for doubtless

France always designed the restitution of Luxemburg as it now is, if ever it really designed a treaty ; and Cailiere, I presume, in giving it up will ask some other thing in compensation, or at least has made a step *en habile ministre*, endeavouring to gain his Master as much as he could. So on the other side it was a blunder in Dyckvelt to have been treating so many months without having asked a clearer explanation of a point so very considerable.

"Your Lordship sees how very slowly the advances towards a treaty are making. The success of the whole affair will depend upon the resolutions of our Parliament. France will certainly give more or less in the treaty as the people of England will proportionally give towards carrying on the war in case those offers miscarry ; and however great our poverty is we must hide it, if possible, from the enemy.

"I think I may presume that I am to be Secretary to the Embassy, and I presume my masters will be named as soon as these points in hand are settled in the preliminaries.

"Your Lordship will pardon me a long letter in my own trade, by which I only mean to acknowledge his kindness who set me out to prentice." *Copy.* (X. 202.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset,] Lord Chamberlain.

1696, Nov. 10–20. Hague.—"I make bold to trouble you with our secrets here. The enclosed is a plan of the preliminaries on the several points of which I think the parties are agreed, except in that of Luxembourg, which France offers in the state it was in when they took it, now in the preliminaries ; and for the fortifications they have added they would agree, in the treaty itself, for a sum of money. No answer has been given to this proposal, the Spanish minister being absent from the Congress by reason of an indisposition, which in all probability will keep him at home till he knows his Master's resolution in this matter.

"Thus time and method are likely to bring us to a treaty, and I believe necessity will make us conclude it." *Copy.* (X. 204.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696, Nov. 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—My Lord Duke "is still confined to his country habitation, and is spitting blood, while Sir John Fenwick is spitting venom. I don't care how soon the last is choked ; I wish the other may recover as soon from his distemper as he will from the rage and malice of Sir John and his party. His Grace made a trial on Sunday last how the air would agree with him, but he found himself the worse for it, and spit more blood after it than he had done for some time before, so that it is very uncertain when he can be able to come up. His cure goes on as slowly as your treaty ; for all we hear of plenipotentiaries

being named, we don't yet persuade ourselves that France is in earnest. We are told that Sir George Barclay is let loose again, and another detachment of cutthroats is sent over. We are never like to be left without alarms, but I hope we shall not be snapt by surprise." (II. 95.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1696, Nov. 17–27. Hague.—"I am glad for the merchants' sake and for the safety of our letters that you have been pleased to advance the proposition of three frigates to cruise between Yarmouth and the Maas, and I am obliged to you in particular that by laying it before the King you gave His Majesty occasion to remember he has a small minister here who has little more to do at present than just to show his zeal to his Master's service. I wish the enclosed may be an instance of it, and if you think fit to show it, you will, I am sure, give me a new occasion [of] being obliged to you as I am very greatly already. My Lord Villiers gives Your Honour that whilst one of the French ministers is chicaning here, and puts an absolute stop by it to the preliminaries, the other two are hastening away to be ready to begin the treaty.—

Quo teneam [*vultus*] *mutantem Protea nodo?*

"Possibly this list may expound the riddle, and they may design another descent, as I hear they have sent their villains before. God prevent them, or if this last attempt does not succeed, the King of France may have all seeming merit of having done his utmost for King James's interest, and of having dwelt, as long as he could, upon the article of owning His Majesty. I hope this behaviour of Cailiere [Callières] is but grimace and ask your pardon that I dare trouble you with base conjectures." *Copy.* (X. 205).

MATTHEW PRIOR to MONSIEUR BAYLE.

1696, Nov. 18–28. Hague.—"J'aurois plustôt répondu à vostre obligeante lettre; mais j'ay cru que je devois attendre que milord Villiers vous eut dit luy même que je me suis bien acquitté de la commission que vous m'avez donnée. Sans cela je n'aurois pas pu me résoudre à différer si longtemps à vous écrire; ne croyez pourtant pas que je veuille m'étendre sur le mérite de vostre ouvrage. Je laisse cela aux savans, et me contente seulement de l'admirer, et de me féliciter de l'honneur que j'ai de connoître le grand génie qui l'a fait—

Satis est hunc mihi nosse virum.

"Au reste je vous remercie par avance du présent que j'accepteray avec joye. Je ne doute point que vous n'ayez disposé de vos autres exemplaires en faveur de véritables savans, mais je doute fort que vous en ayez donné à personne qui en aime plus la lecture, et en estime plus l'auteur." *Copy.* (X. 207.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [RICHARD] POWYS.

1696, Dec. 7. [N.S.] Hague.—"Tallies at 45 per cent. may make a man mad, especially if he has but 20*s.* per day, but the wood, I hope, will sell better, and the allowance be augmented in some time. It was on this consideration that I drew the last hundred pounds on you, and since it was at 5 months, we have a little leisure to look about us, and I hope you will not be inconvenienced in the payment of it. I send you enclosed the copy of a bill of extraordinaries from August to November, which, you see, is within my compass, and will, I suppose, meet with no opposition. You will be pleased to give it either to Mr. Ellis or Mr. Tucker. I have writ a word to Mr. Secretary to prepare the way for it. Tallies are such horrid commodities that it makes one very stoical as to one's own interest. I would desire you, however, to do me the favour to send me the marks and particulars of those which I have; for I have a project, if it comes to anything, of getting some of them off here, or at least of trying to take up some money upon the merits of some of them for 6 months or a year, it being understood always that you are first repaid what you have so kindly disbursed for me, and which, you see, I can only acknowledge in bare words.

"Some miracle may possibly mollify the hearts of the Treasury that we may get a little ready money for these bills and the ordinary appointments. Who knows? We should do well, I think, to try it, though I am ashamed to ask Mr. Montague anything when I fear to put him upon the hardship of refusing me.

"Sir Joseph Williamson coming in to the Council makes me think he may be one of our plenipotentiaries, though I do not know how to reconcile that to my Lord Lexington's pretensions, except they intend to have four, or make my Lord Villiers the first. You would oblige me in sending me a word of what you may hear of this, as likewise who it was that, being Secretary to the Embassy, had 3*l.* per day; and how it was practised at Nimègue upon that account; for that, I believe, will be our rule: this is only between us, as is likewise that I am glad Mrs. Smyth married, and I would not have you sorry." *Copy.* (X. 208–9.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1696, Dec, 7. [N.S.] Hague.—"It [is] my duty to leave the business of the Congress to my Lord Villiers, but it is likewise so to tell you what I remark here. Though Mons. Cailiere [Callières] does not plainly say he has an answer from France concerning the point of having His Majesty owned, he has, I believe, given Mons. Dyckvelt to understand that there will be difficulty made in it, and I have heard that Mons. Dyckvelt does not say all he knows

of this business to the Congress, till Cailiere has writ, for, I believe, it was after Dyckvelt had downright entreated him to do so.

"These are my thoughts, and I infer from them that these people would have a peace, *telle quelle*. I see nobody of another opinion but the Pensioner, who is no way Cailiere's dupe in the whole business, but encourages and manages the preparations towards a war as actually as if there were no conferences on foot towards a peace. Don Quiros (Your Honour will have heard) is named first plenipotentiary for Spain; he is as mad as the Catholic religion and a hot temper can make any man. Kaunitz advances very honestly, but is (by the way) a good deal a bigot. I believe my Lord Villiers and these Ministers I have named of the *quatre Puissances* will have a private conference between this and Monday, which is the day they expect Cailiere's answer, upon which the whole affair may take a turn one way or other absolutely.

"Mons. Plessen is going away very much rejoiced that he has signed the treaty, as I believe everybody is that wishes the good of the common cause, or the repose of Europe.

"Pointi[s] is not yet gone out (I think) with his squadron from Brest, though as well there (as appears by the list I did myself the honour to send you) as at St. Malo and La Hogue there are such preparations making as look like attempting some considerable enterprise. They have talked of a descent in Ireland, and it is certain they are not idle whilst Cailiere amuses us with his preliminaries." *Copy.* (X. 210.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Dorset.] Lord Chamberlain.

1696, Dec. 1–11. Hague.—"For some time past the French Minister here, Mons. Cailiere [Callières], has chicaned about the manner of owning the King, which put a stop to anything that looked like forming a treaty; but on Sunday he told Mons. Dyckvelt that he had order from the Court of France to adjust that great point, which will be done by the ministers agreeing to a form according to which Cailiere shall acknowledge His Majesty's title to the Mediator at the same time that he dictates to him the other preliminary points.

"Your Lordship sees some advances towards a treaty, which looks as if the French really intended it. In the meantime they make great preparations on the coasts of Brittany and Normandy; they have put the troops that come from Piedmont into Burgundy, Lorraine and along the Rhine, and are as actually making ready for a war as if there were no hopes or thoughts of negotiating a peace; which, if it comes to good, will be all owing to the resolutions of the Parliament.

"We may now expect to hear who will be our plenipotentiaries from England. Sir Joseph Williamson being called

to the Council makes us expect he will be one. To whomsoever they are (when they may be named) I need not doubt of Your Lordship's recommendation." *Copy.* (X. 211.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1696, Dec 1–11. Hague.—"My Lord Villiers tells you in what manner the great point is likely to be adjusted and the negotiation to advance. Cailiere [Callières] seems very glad to have received these orders: the hopes of seeing himself soon an ambassador may contribute a good deal to that joy. He puts on a seeming openness and simplicity in confessing that his Master, *veut sortir tout de bon de l'affaire.* The French in the meantime have put their troops that came from Piedmont into Burgundy, Lorraine and along the Rhine, and Your Honour is advised from all hands what preparations they make on the coasts of Brittany and Normandy.

"However the preliminaries seem to be near agreed to; you will see we shall defer going to a treaty in form as long as we can, and decide as much as we can in this private way with Cailiere, and I take the reason of it to be that, as soon as a public Congress is formed, so many little ministers will open, and so many different Princes' claims be produced, as might hinder the whole machine from moving as fast as it should do: but God be thanked that the point relating to His Majesty is finished, and our apprehensions of last post on that subject over; all which is owing to your good resolutions in Parliament, and will, I think, advance as you find funds." *Copy.* (X. 212.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, Dec. 8 [–18]. Whitehall.—"It must be a miracle indeed, as you say, if our Treasury give you ready money for I can assure you our condition is such at present that there is not sixpence of disposable money, all that is in the Exchequer being either appropriated for the war or repayment of loans.

"Your letter which came to Mr. Vernon with an account that Calliere[s] had agreed to own our King hath put a new life into our affairs, and, I hope, will speedily put our treaty of peace on foot, in which you are to have a share. Mr. Ellis tells me, 40*s.* a day and 300*l.* equipage is the utmost that is allowed to any secretary of Embassies. And as to your plenipotentiaries my Lord Villiers will certainly be one, Sir Joseph Williamson, it is believed, will be another; but Lord Lexington will have no hand in it, as I am told." (VIII. 179.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, December 8 [–18]. Whitehall.—"I received yesterday your letter of the 1–11 inst. It could not have come more *à propos*, for I received it just before the House went

into a Committee upon the state of the nation. I happened to tell my next neighbour the good news it brought, and it ran round the House like fire in stubble, and had a very good influence in restraining people from running into the peevish propositions that some had prepared for that day. It was so well received and so little expected that the gentlemen who suspected they should be disappointed by it would have had it pass for a contrivance started up to serve a turn, but your name and credit passed for authentic among them, and I think it is owing to you that we avoided a good deal of peevishness at that time ; but after all I find we must not so depend upon a treaty as not to be upon our guard against what the enemy is designing both by sea and land.'' (II. 97.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1696, Dec 21. [N.S.]—'' The new alterations which the Imperialists would have in the preliminaries keep all at a stand till Cailiere [Callières] has an answer from France. President Canon insists to have Lorraine named in the Preliminaries ; the Congress have consented to it (though you know it was proposed by the Imperialists and consented to by all that it should be entirely omitted till the treaty). Of this point likewise Cailiere expects an answer.

'' That of Luxemburg would be agreed to on France's side, but the Germans themselves hinder it ; they murmur that it should be rendered in a better condition than Strasburg, and like the man in the Scriptures take it ill that their neighbours are kindlier treated than themselves, though they had before what they thought was their due ; however, that point will soon be adjusted, and as we desire it.

'' Mons. Norf will hardly get Dinant restored otherwise than in the state it was at the Peace of Nimègue.

'' You have more particular accounts of the preparations the French are making at Brest than I can give you from hence : and I hope you are prepared for them, whether they are meant either against England or the West Indies.

'' I do not know Sir Joseph Williamson, but I take your question to look very kindly ; you know, Sir, I told you at Loo who I wished might command me.'' *Copy.* (X. 214.)

J[OHN] TUCKER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, Dec. 11 [-21]. Whitehall.—'' The King has this evening been pleased to name for his plenipotentiaries at the general peace the Lord Privy Seal [Pembroke], my Lord Villiers, and Sir Joseph Williamson. Mr. Secretary at the same time proposed you to be their Secretary, which the King seemed well inclined to, but did not positively declare it to be so. You have no competitor, and I think you may have no reason to doubt being the person.'' *Copy.* (II. 99.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696, Dec. 15 [-25].—"Perhaps you might have heard from the other office by last post that His Majesty had named his plenipotentiaries, but I did not know it till afterwards. As soon as it came to my knowledge I remembered your concern in that matter. Both Mr. Yard and I have spoke to Sir Joseph Williamson to let him know your pretensions, and he is very glad they shall be so well assisted.

"Nobody needs to recommend you to my Lord Pembroke. However, when I made him my compliments this morning I was offering to say something in your favour, which he took with so good a grace as if it had been the way to oblige him to have a just opinion of you; and he promises to take the first opportunity of speaking to the King that your place may be fixed and all competitorship silenced."

Postscript. "We are undone here for want of coffee, and they say you abound with it in Holland. Pray therefore engage Mr. Vanderpoele to send one half a dozen pound of that which is good, and let it be directed to Mr. Edisbury at Harwich. (II. 100.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1696, Dec. 15–25. Hague.—"I have the favour of yours of the 8th, and am very glad my letter had a good influence upon your debates. I know you are not capable of making any but a right use of whatever comes to your hand, but I cannot forbear telling you that some of our correspondents are scandalized at my writing to you plainer than to them; but whilst there are men there will be passions, and it is best to take no notice of what we cannot help.

"The Emperor's ministers have sent back the courier to Vienna. I wish upon their remonstrance that Court may cease to clog the preliminaries with difficulties which can have no other effect than to make us lose time. I am glad to tell you that His Majesty is satisfied with the manner in which he is to be owned, and the other points will in all probability be adjusted, provided the Imperialists would once explain to their friends, or indeed rightly conceive themselves, what they mean by reunions and recesses: and not order their ministers to give up a point one post and retract it the next.

"We are apprehensive the French design against Bonn this season; and now we begin to complain that the breaches have not been made up since it was taken." *Copy.* (X. 241.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

169[6–]7, Jan. 1. [N.S.] Hague.—Congratulating him on his appointment as plenipotentiary for the treaty, and praying him that he may be retained in his present post as secretary. (X. 243.) *Copy.*

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

169[6–]7, Jan. 1. [N.S.] Hague.—Thanking him for his intercession in the matter of the secretaryship.

"Pointi[s] is still at Brest. They give out that he waits for more provisions from Rochelle and Bourdeaux. The merchants here [are] of opinion his design must regard the Spanish Fleet.

"The French are in motion in Flanders; but I do not hear there is much reason to fear their doing any mischief considerable this season." *Copy.* (X. 244-5.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696[-7], Dec. 22 [-Jan. 1]. Whitehall.—"I have never affected to be the publisher of news, nor would I have the moroseness to grudge the public that which will please them. I happened, I believe, that day to receive my letters the first, or to be the earliest in the House; and it was a piece of news so greedily desired and so little expected that I find it makes me an author to be envied. All the satisfaction I can make them is to give them free leave to interlope in our province, and if they can learn anything as good, they shall be the free vendors of it; and if they will excuse you for a random letter now and then, I had rather they should hate me than not receive it." (II. 101.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696[-7], Dec. 25 [-Jan. 4]. Whitehall.—"I send you a list of the Lords as they were upon the late division, when Sir John Fenwick's bill passed. I am sorry you will find all the Lords Justices, who are in Town and have voices, were against it, except the good Archbishop of Canterbury, who not only voted but spoke for it with the eloquence and courage of St. Paul. I shall say nothing of another advocate for the bill, viz., the Earl of Monmouth. There lies a mystery that is not yet unriddled, but 'tis certain a plan was formed how Sir John Fenwick might colourably justify the accusation given in against the principal persons mentioned in his paper. Let them answer it whom it shall stick upon. I hope the same providence will protect the innocent that hath been hitherto their guard, and turned the vengeance on the heads of their accusers." (II. 102.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

169[6–]7, Jan. 8. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lord Villiers writes to-night as a minister (what I tell you as a friend) that the preliminary points are adjusted.

"The treaties of Westphalia and Nimègue to be the ground and foundation of this.

"Strasburg to be restored in the state the French took it.

"Luxemburg in the state the French took it; and means to be thought of for a compensation for the new fortifications.

"Dinant as it was taken.

"Mons and Charleroy as they now are.

"All reunions made since the Treaty of Nimègue to be annulled.

Lorraine to be restored as at the Treaty of Nimègue, which restitution not to hinder the further discussion of that affair in the treaty.

"The preliminaries thus adjusted, the place of treaty will now be shortly agreed on, and consequently one may answer your question as to the time our plenipotentiaries will set out. I cannot enough thank my Lord Duke for having written to them about their secretary, and I own I am impatient to have that thing fixed: for though it seems in a very fair way, *multa cadunt inter calicem supremaque labra;* and at Court a thing is only then done, when it is signed and sealed. I hope in a post or two to hear that this is so, and leave it in the meantime to your intercession, who see how it stands in a truer light than I can do from hence." *Copy.* (X. 245.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF DORSET,] LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

169[6–]7, Jan. 8. [N.S.] Hague.—"There begins now to be some real appearance of a treaty; the preliminary points are pretty well agreed, and the place will soon be named, the Allies having for that intent proposed three towns, of which the French are to choose one; after which the plenipotentiaries may be setting out towards fixing the state of Europe, at least till the King of Spain's death sets all into a new ferment, which cannot be long before it happens, considering he has so frequent relapses and such a sickly constitution.

"For all our advances towards peace the war may be continued if Pointi[s] can seize the Spanish galleons, which is probably his design. Our French letters make no mention of his being sailed. I wish our squadron had sufficient provisions to follow him to Havana, in case he attempt it." *Copy.* (X. 246–7.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

169[6–]7, Jan. 15. [N.S.] Hague.—"I may be able in a post or two to tell you that the place of treaty is chosen, the Allies having named three, Maastricht, Nimègue, and Breda, of which France is to name one. In the meantime endeavours are used to have it here at The Hague, to which the French will probably consent, notwithstanding the other nomination, if the Imperialists can possibly be brought not to oppose it; but the matter is treating secretly, and therefore proper only for me to write to (I hope I may say) my Master.

"Letters from Paris of the 7th say that Pointi[s] was not out the 28th past, but that eight men-of-war that went out that day were going to disarm at Rochefort. Four of them have been miserably shattered by a storm, and they had no news then of the other four. I am afraid it was the same ill weather that obliged Sir Clou'esly Showell to return to you." *Copy.* (X. 249.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the [EARL OF PEMBROKE,] LORD PRIVY SEAL.

169[6–]7, Jan. 8–18. Hague.—"We are impatient till the place of congress be named, which indeed will be a good step in the whole negotiation. It was thought that Cailiere [Callières] would to-day give the answer from Versailles to the proposal, that has been offered by the Allies, of three places, Maastricht, Nimègue and Breda, of which places France was to have its choice; but instead of this answer the ministers were told from Cailiere that he presumed his Master would consent to an overture that has been privately made here of having Ryswick (the King's house between Delft and The Hague) the place of treaty; the French ministers to live at Delft, and the Allies' here. The Imperialists oppose this, and I think have no other reason for their doing so than *such is Count Kinski's pleasure:* everybody else is for it, and very justly since they, being already on the place, have nothing to prepare but their equipage; and none need pass-ports but only the two French ministers that are in the commission with Mons. Cailiere, and their secretary who was named at the same time with the Embassy. The Imperialists write to-day of this proposition to Vienna, and I hope we may have a favourable answer, upon which Your Lordship will (I presume) be setting forward to those parts. Upon this supposition I beg leave to ask Your Lordship if you would desire His Majesty to give you apartments in the Old Court, or if Your Lordship would have Prince Maurice's house again, (which I think the States dispose of), or what other measures you will resolve on, and in all cases that Your Lordship would be pleased to command me.

"Our letters from Paris say that Mons. Pointi[s] was not gone out the 7th from Brest, and I have been told by people that should know here that he has but seventeen ships in his squadron." *Copy.* (X. 251.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696–7, March 5 [–15]. Whitehall.—"I hope I may congratulate your safe arrival in Holland, and as I shall be very glad to hear from you when your leisure serves and matters of moment offer, it is fit I should continue to acquaint you with the progress we make in the House of Commons, where, I hope, we are drawing towards a conclusion, now the

funds are settled for the next year's supplies. It remains only to dispose of them into bills, and that, I hope, may be done before Easter. Besides which we have another effort to make towards the helping of credit and the checking of stock-jobbing and tally-mongers, which is now under consideration.

"I don't doubt but you heard of an answer prepared to Sir John Fenwick's paper by the Bishop of Salisbury. It is now come out, containing likewise a succinct account of the arguments for and against the Bill. If your being here so lately has made it no curiosity to you, perhaps my Lord Villiers may be glad to see it, and therefore I send it you, and when you have done with it, I desire it may be forwarded to my son for his instruction." (II. 65.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

169[6–]7, March 9–19. Hague.—"I am safely arrived at my post, and ought from thence to return him thanks whose good offices placed me there. I find things pretty well disposed towards a treaty on everbyody's side but the Imperialists' I wish their irresolution proceeds from no worse cause than the usual gravity and slowness of the House of Austria: they chicane the least points as long as they can possibly; they promise us, however, that the next post shall determine their choice of the place. The French ministers are come to Delft with their women and *abbés*, and Mr. Lilienroet has the greatest mind in the world to be in his mediation in form. I visited the Pensioner at my arrival here; he entered into a very long discourse with me about our English affairs. As to those of the money, I let him understand that it was reasonable to hope that the methods the Parliament had taken would raise our credit, and that we were not in so desponding a condition as at this distance we might seem to be: as to the inclination of the people I said it was wholly towards a peace, provided we may obtain it sure and honourable: that the Parliament left the direction of this work to His Majesty and the Ministry, and contented themselves to labour the establishing such good funds as were necessary to accomplish the peace as it should be, or to prolong the war if occasion required. I perceived by the whole of what he said, Holland is absolutely bent to a peace, and I believe the Pensioner thinks that our present want of money may be the only reason that France can find to stand off. I am sorry that the mistake in the ratifications makes them returned." *Copy.* (X. 254.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles Montagu,] Chancellor of the Exchequer.

169[6–]7, March 26. [N.S.] Hague.—"I am again got into my flamels [*sic.*] and begin to take memoirs, *répliques* and protocols for current coin. The French are at Delft; and the Mediator longs to be at work; however, we have not

as yet a positive answer from Vienna as to the place, and whilst that Court demands explications on the preliminaries, I wish it were in earnest for the treaty; but this is what I should say to my Master alone; at *amicitiae aeternae* and twelve o'clock at night:—'Whatever they may mean by this slowness we must drag them on, and as soon as my Masters come, we shall begin in good earnest.'

"I am never to write to you but I must give you thanks for some new favour; I do so, therefore, most heartily for the tallies you have been pleased to order me. Mr. Powys tells me Your Lordships have allowed my Lord Pembroke and Sir Joseph advance-money and equipage, but says not a word of my Lord Villiers, which puts us all into a fright here. I find His Lordship as forward in his equipage as any, and it will be as magnificent. I always presumed there was no kind of objection to his case and told him so at my return: there is no doubt but that His Lordship will plead his own interests." *Copy.* (X. 254-5.)

John Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1696–7, March 19 [–29]. Whitehall.—"Before and after you left Harwich we had several accounts here of the great numbers of French privateers lying off our coast, which put us in some pain lest they should have shown you Dunkirk in your way to The Hague, but we were glad to hear you had escaped them. Your other two matters for the treaty are now in some readiness to follow you, and last night at the request of Sir Joseph Williamson His Majesty ordered the *Mary* yacht to be got ready to transport him to Holland, whither my Lord Pembroke goes in the same.

"I cannot tell but now all his equipage, &c., is likewise ready, and I hope you will soon be busy upon the great work which everybody so much desires and at the same time doubts the success of; but you and I, who have more faith, do believe without doubt." (III. 1.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1696-7, March 23 [–April 2].—Whitehall. "I have received your letter of the 26th and suppose our plenipotentiaries will be with you sooner than any good answers will come from Vienna. Sir Joseph Williamson is under a fit of the gout, but he don't intend either that or the Treasury shall be a hindrance to his promoting the public service.

"We have been apprehensive lest His Majesty might have a spice of a quartan ague: the first appearance of it was on Wednesday last, and he had a kind of a fit on Saturday again at Lattens Lodge. I hear he was very well this morning, but whether there hath been any return of it since I don't know. I hope not.

"My Lord Chamberlain [Dorset] has sold the keepership of Greenwich Park to the Earl of Romney. I don't like it

when great men begin to divest themselves of what they have; their way used to be rather to add to it." (II. 70.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1696-7, March 23 [–April 2]. Whitehall.—"I shall in a few days have your candlesticks and snuffers out of the Jewel Office so as to send them with your other things; but I doubt I shall not have your standish out so soon, for by an Act lately passed in Parliament no plate is to be made after the 25th instant, but what is to be made finer than the present standard; and no new standard pieces being yet made the standish will not pass the assay of the Hall till that is done; but the candlesticks being already cast are sent to the Goldsmiths' Hall to pass the present standard, and [be] finished afterwards." (VIII. 207.)

The SAME to the SAME.

1697, March 26 [–April 5]. Whitehall.—Letter of commendation for the bearer, Mr. Eden, eldest son of Sir Robert Eden, knight of the shire for the Bishopric of Durham, who is sent over with Sir Joseph Williamson to "see the method of your treaty and the ways and manners of a foreign country." (VIII. 211.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, March 26 [–April 5]. Whitehall.—"I see there is little news stirring with you, and we have not much.

"My Lord Monmouth is about petitioning the House for his liberty, but the application will be first made to the King.

"We hear of a negotiation carrying on between the Weavers' and East India Company, which latter, provided they may be established for a certain number of years by Act of Parliament, are willing to submit to all the restrictions of the late Bill that is lost by both Houses adhering; and besides they will undertake to advance 400,000*l.* on the credit of the Malt Act." (III. 2.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, April 5. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lord Villiers informs you how our Congress affairs proceed, as much as I can guess at them. The Imperialists will come to, and Holland is certainly so intent on the peace that, as soon as my Masters arrive, we may make great steps towards it; in which case the Germans must shuffle after. The French lie civil and silent at Delft, and seem very much in earnest towards beginning the negotiation. King James (people say again) is to go to Avignon; in the meantime he has made another Declaration or Manifesto or Petition or Challenge (for one knows not what to call it,) to the Protestant Princes, which will have as good effect as that to the Catholics. Your

Honour will probably have seen it before, but I take the liberty, however, of sending it as soon as it comes to my hands.

"I have mentioned to Debreuil the proposal of settling a correspondence, but I do not see that he can do it so effectually as to make it worth attempting. As to ordinary correspondence the poor man will do his best; he has been sick, and this *Lardon* is the first fruit of his recovery. I dare not dun you and I am sure you will not forget him, but if he had some little thing, it would save him from dying of the cruellest disease imaginable, which is hunger." *Copy.* (X. 257.)

JAMES CRESSET and SIR PAUL RYCAUT to the BURGOMASTERS and COUNCILLORS of the CITY OF HAMBURG.

1697, April 7. [N.S.?] Hamburg.—Remonstrance, complaining that in spite of two previous remonstrances they continue to make conventions and treaties with the Scottish East India Company, who have no credentials for that purpose, and have even erected a public office to receive subscriptions. Desiring them, in the name of the King their Master, to desist from the practice. *French. Copy.* (XVII., No. 2.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, April 9. [N.S.] Hague.—"Your Honour sees from the enclosed what news I have from France, relating to the sea. I wish to God the contents of it were better; but there is an ill fate upon the Admiralty's conduct of either nation, and I see nothing but prayer can remove it.

"The same letters (they are of the 5th) say, that the Marquis de Villeroy is to part at the 20th from Paris towards Flanders, and the Marquis de Choiseul about the same time for Germany: they make no mention of the Duke of Vendôme's going to Catalogne. This, with the Spanish minister's having declared that our fleet's being sent into the Mediterranean could only save Catalogne from accepting a neutrality, may justly make one fear they have already accepted it.

"I think our great affair does not much advance: the French will explain themselves no fuller in what the Imperialists require; and till a courier which Count Stratman has sent to Vienna returns again, we know not how far Kinski will recede. The Turk, I am told, will not hearken to a peace, and the Emperor had rather carry on two wars, of which one costs him nothing, than be left alone in one in which all the world will see his weakness. Your Honour will judge of the truth of this reflection. As far as I can inquire into the humour of our French negotiators, Harlay and Cailleres [Callières] are (I find) bigots, and Cressy an old chicaner; by this Your Honour will see that our hopes for [*blank*] are but moderate, for in private conversations, where the last article in the *Postulata* has been touched by chance, they fly out

into extravagances; but this is to you alone and to my Masters at their coming." *Copy.* (X. 259.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, March 30 [–April 9]. Whitehall.—"Sir Joseph Williamson is growing well again, and our plenipotentiaries, we think, will be going in 8 or 10 days.

"The Earl of Monmouth is now a free man again. If he can be a quiet one, it will be better for himself and his neighbours.

"Since leave given by the House of Commons the Commissioners of the Admiralty, who are Members, have attended the Committee of Lords, Mr. Russell only excepted, who is like to leave it to others to satisfy the Lords in the questions they have to ask." (III. 3.)

Matthew Prior to the [Earl of Pembroke,] Lord Privy Seal.

1697, April 12. [N.S.] Hague. — "Count Stratman's secretary arrived here yesterday morning from Vienna, and (as my Lord Lexington informs my Lord Villiers) brings orders to the Imperial ministers here to agree, as the rest of the Allies have done, to the preliminaries as they now are, and without any further explication or change. The Imperial ministers for all this will not acknowledge that they have received any other order than what confirms their former of not receding the point without obtaining the explication they have been asking, and which, I may say to Your Lordship, France would deny them to the end of the world. Your Excellency sees how hard it is to deal with these Germans; we stay first two months to have a reasonable answer from their Court, and are likely to stay some time longer before their ministers will avow the receiving the answer when it is sent.

"The ministers of the least Princes have taken the greatest houses here, and at such rates as if they never designed to pay the rents. I hope at least Your Lordship and Sir Joseph will have apartments in the Old Court." *Copy.* (X. 261.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, April 2 [–12]. Whitehall.—"I am afraid you have heard the ill news that is come hither of the loss of the Dutch Bilbao fleet, most of which is said to be taken by the St. Malo's privateers.

"The Earl of Monmouth came not out of the Tower till yesterday: a fit he hath had of the gravel with swelling in his side kept him there two days after his discharge. It was declared on Wednesday last that my Lord Clifford should have his place of Lord of the Bedchamber, and to put him yet more out of humour the Earl of Peterborough is like to

recover, who was concluded to be dead, and that it was not to be owned till quarter-day were past.

"My Lord Pembroke talks of going from hence the week after next: I know not whether he can have Sir Joseph Williamson's company so soon, for he lies very ill with a fever, and hath an ill symptom of a great doziness upon him." (III. 4.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, April 16. [N.S.] Hague.—"The substance of that packet from Vienna which I forwarded to you by last post might justly make you expect to hear something from hence by this of the Imperialists receding from the explication in the preliminaries, which for some time past they have insisted on; but Count Kaunitz stands as tenaciously to the point as if he never had received one word which might authorize his yielding it. The Pensioner, Mons. Dyckvelt, and my Lord Villiers are now together on that occasion, and till the Imperialists will remove this difficulty the whole work is at a stand.

"The German ministers here are apprehensive the French may begin the campaign with some action on the Rhine; that Mayence may be besieged or bombarded. The King of France sees the review of the Swiss and French Guards, the Household Troops, etc., the 20th of this month, after which they march towards Germany. Captain Price will tell you he is arrived at Helvoet, having landed his recruits and officers at Ostend.

"We want five posts from England, so know not if the King or his Ambassadors are ready to come." *Copy.* (X. 262.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1697, April 6 (–16]. Whitehall.—"I find you are very sanguine on the subject of the peace, and doubt not but you build on a good foundation. We believe you will not long be without the King's ambassadors. We have had no letters from your side of the water since those of the 5th instant N.S., so that we know not what progresses are of late made at the Congress at The Hague, but in ours at Westminster we have done to-day, by laying 12*d.* in the pound more upon land, and doubling the last subsidy, somewhat that in its consequences may contribute much towards a peace; for this will make the King easy in his affairs, and put a speedy end to this session of Parliament, so that His Majesty may soon be going over to Holland." (III. 5.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, April 9 [–19]. Whitehall.—"We have now three mails due: all I have to send you is that another piece of

malice against my Lord Duke [Shrewsbury] has been defeated this day, which was to have been introduced by Mr. Arnold's report, those concerned in it designing to bring the informer Smith before the House of Commons, as he had been formerly before the Lords, and so to have concluded the sessions with some slur; but when they found people were so little afraid of their report as to call for it and to press the bringing it on, they grew shy of exposing that and themselves, and thought it best for the reporter to play least in sight. Whereupon the House resolved to hear no more of it." (III. 7.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1697, April 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—"I am obliged to you for your free communication of your observations and thoughts upon the present transactions, and you may assure yourself that what you entrust me with goes no further; and therefore you are safe as well as kind in using freedom with me; and I desire it the rather, because, to be free with you in my turn, the accounts my Lord Villiers gives me are very imperfect, and therefore I entreat you to continue to me the satisfaction of letting me know the characters and inclinations of the ministers at the treaty, the progress of affairs there and what hopes there is of a peace, or the contrary, or what other remarks your station and your talent enable you to make." *Signed.* (III. 8.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1697, April 13 [--23]. Whitehall.—"Having a few scraps of news and conjectures I send them to you; and first Sir James Rushout, an old, rich, unhealthy gentleman, is chosen by the Turkey Company upon the King's recommendation to be Ambassador at the Porte in the room of my Lord Paget recalled. Consul Blackwell this morning kissed His Majesty's hand as Envoy to Florence. The Earl of Manchester, I suppose you know, is appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to Venice to return their compliment, though I think a little too soon; and Mr. Stanyan in our office is like to go Secretary to the Embassy (not Ambassador) and will have a Commission, 300*l.* equipage and 40*s. per diem;* this last is not absolutely done, but so far that I believe it will be.

"My Lord Pembroke intends to embark the first fair wind, and stays for nothing else. Sir Joseph Williamson is so well, as in probability he may be able to go in a few days; so you may expect him with the King, who, we begin to say, will go hence the latter end of the next week, the wind permitting. The Parliament, I believe, will be up on Saturday next; but before His Majesty goes, we say, there will be some alterations amongst the Ministers. I do not hear who will be out, but there being vacancies in the Admiralty, Treasury, and Com-

mission of Lords Justices, those will be filled, and some few removes besides. One named (amongst others) to fill the Commission of Lords Justices is my Lord Sunderland, but till you hear further, pray keep that to yourself.

"We expect an alteration in the Government of Ireland, the Lords Drogheda and Montrath, who are now joined with my Lord Galway, it's said, will be both out, and in their room Mr. Methuen (now Lord Chancellor) and Mr. Henry Boyle. Just now we received an express from the Governor of Dartmouth, giving an account that a great fleet of ships were seen off the Start Point, which alarmed the country, believing them to be French, but it is most likely that they are either our own Virginia Fleet, or Admiral Evertz with the Cales [Cadiz] and Portugal Fleets." (III. 9.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, April 16 [–26]. Whitehall.—"We have ended our session, and His Majesty's speech will inform you how well he approves of it. I know not whether we have answered expectations abroad, but we have exceeded what many among us ever thought could be done; and I don't think any Parliament hereafter will have it in their power to give so much.

"I am sorry I must tell you my Lord Duke has grown worse of late; not only his spitting of blood is a little increased, but there are some symptoms that show a tendency towards a consumption, and it is imputed to the wrong method that hath been taken for his cure. Doctor Ratcliff hath long disapproved of it, and now His Grace is prevailed on to put himself into his hands. I wish we may have more reason to commend the course he intends to take, but he speaks of it with assurance, and therefore I hope he doth not think his assistance is required too late.

"There is a great fire just now broke out in Derby Court at the end towards the water. I hope it may be soon mastered, since there is little wind stirring." (III. 10.)

J[OHN] ELLIS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, April 17 [–27]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Howard, the person who will deliver you this, is son to a worthy gentleman of my acquaintance, a doctor of physic; and his genius inclining him to painting, his father, though a wealthy man, will not oppose his inclinations, but rather seconds them by allowing him to travel, to make what improvement he can in an art he so much affects; and who knows whether he may not help to revive that noble science much fallen of late from its ancient splendour and perfection?

"I desire you will please to give the young man, who is so modest he will not be troublesome, such countenance and protection as he shall stand in need of for the better prosecution of his design at The Hague; and when he shall have a mind to go to Amsterdam or Leyden to see what those

places afford for his instruction, that you will please to recommend him to some person there who may assist him in his laudable design.

"I do not often trouble you with my letters, because Mr. Tucker constantly acquaints you with what happens here worth your knowledge, and the repetition of them from my hand would but make them worse. He had a fair escape last night, the house being on fire just as he was going to bed, so that he had only time to clap on his clothes again and take away some guineas he had; the rest of his things are burnt or pillaged. All that [Derby] Court is burnt down, so [you] will believe some of your relations near it were well frighted." (III. 11.)

Matthew Prior to [James] Vernon.

1697, April 20-30. Hague.—"We had eight posts yesterday from England, and I am honoured with as many letters from you. I am ashamed my correspondence can no way balance yours; the little chicanes we have had here have hardly been worth sending you, and an ugly defluxion upon my eyes has hindered me from writing to you so regularly as I ought to have done.

"I hope to get well by that time my Masters come, and to make amends for my negligence to my friends when we may have something worth troubling them with. The only point that obstructs our entering into the negotiation is (I think) the reunions the French have made in the Spanish Provinces since the Treaty of Nimègue. The Spaniards have given a list of their pretensions to the Mediator, and are pretty fair in the matter. The French chicane; they will give their answer, but so very little time (possibly some hours only) before the entering upon the treaty, that the Spaniards shall not see it, or at least not have time to object against it, otherwise than whilst the treaty is actually on foot, and so that their excepting against it shall not hinder the going on with more material points: which being interpreted is that, the treaty being ready to be finished, the Spaniards shall not think it worth while to break off all for that which they would make as much bustle as they can to obtain now. I know not if the King of Sweden's death may not hinder us some time longer: the young King under the government of his grandmother and Oxenstiern will certainly carry on the mediation. I hear to-day that Denmark will desire a part of it, but I cannot give you this for certain.

"I suppose you do not think Mr. Rowley will be less welcome to me for my not having mentioned his coming in my last letters to you. I take it as a thing done, and when my Lord Duke thinks fit to send him to me, I shall behave myself to the young gentleman as if His Grace had not only baptized but begot him."

Postscript. "I am extremely glad my Lord is recovered. I leave it to you to tell His Grace so as you may find occasion or think fit. I have sent Jimmy his packet of news." *Copy.* (X. 264.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, April 20 [–30]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter of the 26th instant. What is become of the three preceding mails we know not, but are told they were put on board a vessel that is gone for Ireland. Since they are to go thither, I am glad you had not the trouble of writing any by that conveyance, though I am very sorry at the occasion for it, and we find that our plenipotentiaries take their turns to be out of order; and what exceedingly adds to my trouble is that my Lord Duke finds himself much worse since he went into his new method. He took Dr. Ratcliff's prescriptions, which were opiate pills, on Friday and Saturday only, and the last time they occasioned a great vomiting, which brought up a quantity of blood and some of it clotted, and he hath been very weak and much out of order since that time.

"He is now returned again to Sir Thomas Millington's advice, and finds it absolutely necessary to remove to a greater distance from London, that he may be freed from the importunity of visits and the fatigue of business, both which, it is feared, render his recovery impracticable.

"His Majesty's convoy will be ready, as was ordered, by Thursday next, and the wind being now come about, I suppose he will be going to Margate on Friday or Saturday at furthest. In the meantime a Council must be called and the Lords Justices declared, which is not yet done; we know only of one new one to be added, which is the Earl of Sunderland, to whom my Lord Dorset hath resigned his office of Chamberlain for the sum of 10,000*l.*, which His Majesty pays.

"I hear my Lord Keeper [Somers] is to be a peer of England, and to induce him to accept of it he hath a grant of lands made him to the value of near 2,000*l.* per annum, which every one thinks he well deserves.

"The Commissions of the Treasury and Admiralty are to be renewed; Mr. Pelham will be added to the former and Mr. Wharton to the latter; whether any more I know not.

"Mr. Duncombe is removed from being receiver to the Excise, and it is given to Mr. Burton of the Exchequer, who, if he be not so rich as the other, shows, however, a greater forwardness to accommodate himself to what the public service requires.

"Sir Robert Clayton is going off from the Customs, great notice being taken of his discouraging the subscriptions which are to be the foundation for issuing Exchequer bills." (III. 12.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles Montagu,] Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1697, May 3. [N.S.] Hague.—"With the last English letters we had the news that Sir James Rushout was to go to Constantinople; Lisbon therefore is open, unless envoyships are to be entailed, and Methwyn succeeds Methwyn till Shiloath comes. Though the Portuguese have just now sent an envoy to us, the peace might be made before ours went to them, if he were named now. You see I am recommending myself to you to be recommended by my Lord Keeper for this employment. My Lord Duke of Shrewsbury would, I believe, be on our side, and my Lord Albemarle would second anything of that kind, if it were once on foot. To help this, the Embassy would hardly be denied such a thing for their secretary, and your friend Matt Prior might learn Portuguese, and get two thousand pounds in three years, and come home again to dedicate the rest of his life *amicitiæ æternæ*, and to the commands of my Master. If this project fails, so will Sir James Rushout's life before he gets halfway to Turkey, so that if I were sure that no other consumptive member should be put into that pool before me, I would certainly in recompence bring you the peace, rather than leave it at Aston's lodgings: but Portugal is the present point, and I leave it to your consideration. I confess I should prefer it to any thing, but to being at home and near you.

"The steps towards a peace advance as fast as the gravity of the House of Austria will permit. The difficulties which the Emperor made are adjusted, and the only ones that remain to obstruct the opening the treaty are about the reunions which have been made by France in the Spanish Netherlands since Nimègue. The French will not give their answer to the list which the Spaniards have made of these reunions till just the beginning of the treaty, because (say they) the Spaniard, not consenting entirely to the answer, may refuse entering into treaty. Chicane (my dear Master) and nonsense, for the French know very well that, let their answer be what it will, the Spaniards are not in a condition to refuse coming to a treaty with the rest of the Allies; and the Spaniards know as well that they shall gain nothing by this little bustle besides the credit of being thought considerable enough to stop the treaty some little time for what they are sure to yield at last. In some days the treaty will open, and things look as if it would succeed. If you are of opinion that this affair of Portugal be practicable, you will let me have a line from you in order to my getting it seconded; if not, *nil mihi rescribas.*" *Copy.* (X. 265.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, May 3. [N.S.] Hague.—"The affair of the reunions in the Spanish Netherlands made by the French since the treaty of Nimeguen is the only one (I think) that hinders

our entering upon the treaty so much expected: it is very senseless on both sides."

"I believe the treaty will soon be opened, so I wish my Masters were here, for Holland will have a peace, and is pretty open in its discourses on that head. The Pensioner, I think, is a little too much so; it is showing his cards before he is quite sure of the game: but when we once come to a treaty, the thing will doubtless not be long doing.

"I have spoke with some of our French here that have dined with the Ambassadors. Their table is well served and sober, the discourse of it very well and all politics industriously avoided: the only thing observable was that Harlay, upon the speaking of King James' Manifesto, observed that there was nothing more contradictory than his two papers, and that he was mighty ill served and advised in the publication of them. And upon naming that Prince I must tell you that a good friend of his, Sir Robert Tirril, is here, and, as he says, is going over for England. I have an eye to his haunts, and shall (according to my duty) advise you if I have any reason to think his conduct here any way mysterious."

Solicits Trumbull's favour in the matter of the Lisbon envoyship. *Copy.* (X. 267–9.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [CHARLES] MONTAGU, CHANCELLOR [OF THE EXCHEQUER].

1697, May 10. [N.S.] Hague.—"I will not trouble you with the particulars of our Congress affairs yesterday at Ryswick, where we met for the first time, and in short did little more than show the Mediator our *pleinpouvoirs*.

"I troubled you so lately about my own affairs that I should blush to do it again but for an accident since that I could no way foresee. My Lord Villiers, when he kissed the King's hand yesterday for being made a Justice of Ireland, told him that he thought it would be for His Majesty's service that I should be Secretary to the Justices, and that His Lordship should take it as a particular addition to the honour the King designed him; that, if His Majesty would be pleased thereupon to order a letter to be writ to the other two Justices, there would be no difficulty in the thing; and that my absence till the peace might be supplied by a *commis* or deputy, I being actually as much in His Majesty's service here as my Lord Villiers himself. The King answered, that he was satisfied with my service, and with the proposition, but added,—*I think I have already been spoken to for another, but if the Lords Justices agree upon Mr. Prior, I am willing to it, and will write to the other two.* My Lord Villiers asked him if in the meantime I might write about it to you, and the King consented: *ad te itaque advenio, spem, salutem, auxilium expetens.* I know you will press the Marquis of Winchester upon this point, and if you gain it,

we shall get our thousand pound a year in Ireland, and I shall come once or twice a year to England, which, my dear Master, are no light considerations. I write you just the state of the affair, that you may take what measures you judge rightest in it. If this secretary, whoever he is, was recommended or is protected by my Lord Sunderland, there is no hope of our succeeding: if otherwise, we have the King, Lord Villiers and, I believe, Lord Galway on our side." *Copy.* (X. 269–70.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD SUNDERLAND.

1697, May 1–11. Hague.—" My congratulating your being Lord Chamberlain is but a pretext, by which I would colour the presumption of writing to you. The true meaning of my letter is to beg your favour and protection to a young minister who has a mind to be all his lifetime Your Lordship's servant. My Lord Villiers, being named one of the Justices for Ireland, did me the favour to recommend me to His Majesty to be Secretary to that Commission, as soon as the honour I have of being Secretary to the Embassy here ceases. His Majesty testified better of me than I deserve, but added that he had been spoken to about that employment in favour of somebody else; but that if the other Justices consented to what my Lord Villiers asked in favour of me, His Majesty was willing to confirm it, or to give me anything else in Ireland that should be judged proper. I therefore beg Your Lordship's favour in this thing as far as it will bear. I should not thus have dared to break through all forms but for this emergency, which may be so considerable to my future fortune, nor have troubled Your Lordship on a less occasion than to tell you that my life may take that turn which you please to give it." *Copy.* (X. 271–3.)

J[OHN] TUCKER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, May 4 [-14]. Whitehall.—" This morning I received the favour of yours of the 10th instant (N.S.) with a copy of the journal of the first day's proceedings of the Plenipotentiaries at Ryswick, which I heartily thank you for, and am glad to see matters look so well. I wish you all success.

" Mr. Secretary showed me yours to him of the same date, wherein you desire to know whether for the future you are to address yourself immediately to him, Mr. Ellis or myself in your public capacity; he replied—*pray write to him* (meaning you) *to-night, and desire him by all means to write to me:* and to be free with you, I believe he thought you would be more particular to him than perhaps their Excellencies may be. As to the other part of your letter, wherein you say my Lord Villiers had proposed you to the King to be the Chief Secretary to the Lords Justices of Ireland, I do assure you Mr. Secretary was so ready to serve you that he himself found my Lord Galway, and spoke to him about it; and His

Lordship was pleased to assure him that nobody had yet been recommended to him, or (he believed) to the Marquis of Winchester either; and that he should be very glad to have you their secretary before any other person whatever; but he asked how it could be, while the treaty was on foot, where you were already engaged as secretary? Mr. Secretary leaves it to you to solve this question; and perhaps it may not be difficult, if you will consider that there are always two secretaries, and one may shift for so short a while as your employment there may be likely to last; or at worst, it is but leaving that, if the King will consent to it, and somebody else supplying your room: but these being only my own hints to you, you may probably think of some better expedient. I do intend to-morrow to wait on Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and desire him to speak to the Marquis of Winchester; but without further consideration, since you have two of the three already, I must desire you to apply for the King's recommendation immediately, for it will be worth your while, and I wish you heartily well." (III. 14.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, May 4 [–14]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter of the 1–11 with the enclosed account, and shall keep you from being reprimanded for it; though somebody ought to think it their business to inform the Lords Justices of what passes at the treaty. I find Mr. Blathwayt refers it to those who are properly concerned, and I don't yet see anybody that undertakes to do it.

"I am glad to hear my Lord Villiers had you so soon in his thoughts for the Secretaryship of Ireland, and I am more pleased to find it is not a compliment only. I am told by one who came from my Lord Chamberlain this afternoon that you were spoken of there as the man pitched upon. I take it for granted, therefore, the King's pleasure was signified by this post; and it came seasonably, for I found them unresolved where to choose, though several had been proposed. This being the case, you will want no offer of my service; but I have engaged one who is intimate with the Marquis of Winchester to give him your character, and my Lord Galway knows it already. That which still puzzles me is how you will divide yourself between Dublin and The Hague." (III. 15.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

[1697, after May 5–15. Hague.]—"You see by the enclosed what was done on Wednesday at the Congress. I wish Count Kaunitz' haughtiness and Mons. Zeiler's formality may not hinder us in points more essential to the treaty than this of their manner of meeting the French could be. I cannot forbear saying to you that I am not sorry those people who

would distinguish themselves in everything meet with some little mortification in this. I wish to-morrow may answer the Mediator's third proposition; for till something material is before our ministers, these punctilios will amuse those of Germany and especially those of the Emperor.

"By an express just now arrived from Zuylestein we hear that the King is quite freed from the indisposition he lay under. God preserve him to us. The letters from Flanders to-day talk much of the motions the French make, which, it is thought, will end in the siege of Ath." *Copy.* (X. 272-3.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, May 7 [–17]. Whitehall.—"I find it is no secret in this town that you are to be the Chief Secretary in Ireland, but still I can't be resolved whether Ireland or the treaty must want you, unless you intend to make a speedy end there either by concluding the peace or sending home the French plenipotentiaries.

"Sir Joseph Williamson is got abroad, and will be moving towards you when the convoy sails next week." (III. 16.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles Montagu,] Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1697, May 21. [N.S.] Hague. — "*Victoria!* My Lord Sunderland has writ to my Lord Villiers that the two Justices have consented to my being their secretary; my Lord Villiers has writ the thing to my Lord Albemarle, and I do not doubt but that it will be confirmed here. I need not tell you the sense I have of your favour in this matter, nor thank you for your solicitations or for your two letters. I spare my Lord Sunderland likewise from my compliments, though I had the impudence to trouble him with my requests. I beg you to say for me to His Lordship all that you think a mind truly grateful could imagine. I write to my new Masters, but you must help me too to thank them. I hope my peace-making may give me leave ere long to pay them my duty; indeed, Master, it will be a great consolation to your wandering dove, when he comes with the olive-branch in his mouth, to find a place prepared where he may set footing. I read my Lord Villiers your excuses for not writing to him; he thinks it sufficient." *Copy.* (X. 274.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, May 21. [N.S.] Hague.—"The Congress on Saturday afforded but very little. The Imperial ministers gave the copy of the project they had drawn up for the Empire to the German ministers, who are to examine it and will give in their sentiments of it to-morrow.

"Mons. de la Tour is arrived here again. He has taken a house at Ryswick, and intends to show his credentials for assisting at the general peace.

"The paper to Mr. Tucker tells the news we have concerning Ath. God knows if it can be succoured. People talk very differently of it. The design of besieging so inconsiderable a place does no way answer the ideas the French gave us of what they would do in Flanders.

"I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to you for what you have done for me in the business of Ireland." *Copy.* (X. 275–6.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, May 11 [–21]. Whitehall.—"I have none of yours to acknowledge, and shall not go about to acquaint you with occurrences that you will find in other letters. But as to what concerns yourself, I find some endeavouring to provide you a substitute in Ireland till you come to officiate, and they would have me join in it for Palmer, who is now Secretary to the Justices; but I refused it for many reasons; for this chiefly, that if you are detained there, I think it will not be refused you to appoint your deputy, though the best way is to execute your own office and to begin with your new Lords." (III. 18.)

TREATY OF RYSWICK.

SCOTLAND.

[1697, May.]—Instructions to the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain at The Hague to secure for the King's subjects in Scotland (1) confirmation of the ancient privilege of naturalization as free subjects of the King of France; (2) their accustomed exemption from an imposition of 50*s.* per ton laid by the French upon all foreign shipping; (3) the removal of heavy impositions laid since 1660 on the produce of Scotch manufactures; a prohibition of the import of herrings and "white fish," and an additional imposition upon salmon. *Sign Manual.*

Further instructions to the same to endeavour to secure the restoration of Anne, Duchess of Hamilton, to her title of Duchess of Chastel-Herault and her other rights and possessions in France, including the arrears of a yearly pension of 12,000 *livres* until restitution be made, which pension was last ordered to be paid in 1661: also the restoration to Sir William Douglas of the lands held by him in his wife's right at Dankelsheim and Ketelsheim in Alsace and elsewhere in France: also the insertion of a general clause in the treaty restoring all Scotchmen to lands in France whereof they have been dispossessed. *Signed,* W. R.

Endorsed:—"Given to Mr. Prior by the Earl of Pembroke, May 28 [N.S.], 1697." (XVII., No. 4.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, May 11 [–21]. Whitehall.—"Sir Joseph Williamson came on Friday night to take his leave of our Lords. I took

the opportunity of recommending your plate to him to be sent with his goods; and the next day I got it out of the Jewel House and sent by Beaumont, a porter, to his house; the receipt for it together with the key of the trunk you will find enclosed. There is in the trunk six large candlesticks, a snuffer-pan and snuffers, and a silver standish. I paid four guineas, fees, besides 5*s.* to the office-keeper, and 1*s.* 6*d.* cord and porter, &c. When I came to take them away, they told me that, the King wanting three pair of candlesticks for Flanders, they had given Mr. Lowman those that were made for you, and these sent you were made according to His Majesty's directions for his own use, and that Mr. Lowman would call on you to exchange them, there being little difference in the weight, but these the handsomer if you can keep them, which I suppose you will, for before they will come to your hands, I suppose the King will be gone to the army.

"Mrs. Prior sent to me a week ago to know if I had not directions to pay her 100*l.* I told her I had not yet any orders about it, nor money to pay it with. She said you owed her 44*l.*, and that you told her in May she should have 100*l.* to repay herself and to get some things for you, and desired me to acquaint you therewith." (VIII. 223.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to the AMBASSADORS.

1697, May 14–24. Mecheln.—The Comte de Soissons being now on his way to Italy to reconcile himself to his cousin the Duke of Savoy, and by his means to his uncle the Prince of Carignan, from whom he has considerable pretensions, the King signifies his pleasure that their Excellencies will give the Président de la Tour and his colleague to understand that the Comte, who has for some time past owned his adherence to His Majesty and attended him in eminent dangers of the war, is recommended to the favour of the Duke of Savoy, that there may be a just and favourable decision of family interests to preserve that branch of the House of Savoy from ruin, to which their misfortunes have exposed them. *Signed.* (III. 21.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, May 24. [N.S.] Hague.—"The enclosed contains the formalities of what was done on Wednesday at Ryswick. The essential part of it may be comprehended in very few words: that the Imperialists gave in Saturday before an imperfect paper, and tacitly confessed their having done so by changing it on Wednesday, and that they made the most ridiculous demand imaginable where they asked that of the French, for what have the French to demand or why would the Imperialists have them demand anything? You see, Sir, how slowly we advance: I hear the French grow impatient at it, and I take this to be a good argument that they are in earnest for a peace.

"I have not yet seen the Imperialists' project, but by the account I have had of it by piece-meal from their secretaries (I may say to Your Honour), it appears to me a little monstrous." *Copy.* (X. 281.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, May 18 [-28]. Whitehall.—Giving as his private opinion that "as the Lords Justices are in the highest trust here, and have the honour to represent the King, and what is now negotiating at The Hague being of the greatest moment to this kingdom," they should not "be made strangers to it.

"I don't perceive but that hath been the case hitherto: perhaps it proceeds from an opinion that nothing hath yet passed that requires a communication; but I can judge only by what I see, and when the Ambassadors shall order any accounts to be sent hither, they may depend upon it that the Lords Justices will have the perusal of them.

"There is one come up to-day from my Lord Duke who tells me he is much mended; he is gone this day to his house in Worcestershire."

Postscript.—"The Lords Justices of Ireland took their leave this morning; their journey is fixed for Thursday." (III. 19.)

Sir William Trumbull to Matthew Prior.

1697, May 18 [–28]. Whitehall.—Thanks for Journals of the Transactions in the Congress at Ryswick. Has no doubt His Majesty will approve of the Lords Justices' choice of Prior as their secretary; is glad of it for Prior's sake, though he lose by it a good correspondent in Holland, which is of value at this time. Desires Prior to take particular notice of Sir Richard Onslow's son, now at The Hague. *Signed.* (III. 20.)

Lord Galway to Matthew Prior.

1697, May 18 [–28]. London.—Congratulating him on his appointment to the Chief Secretaryship in Ireland, and asking for directions as to the filling of that post during his absence at The Hague. *French. Holograph.* (III. 22.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

1697, May 19 [–29]. Hague.—Regulations as to the ceremonies to be observed at the meetings of the plenipotentiaries and the behaviour of their servants. *Latin. Authentic copy, sealed and attested by N. Lillieroot (the Mediator).*

[The text is printed in *Actes et Mémoires des négotiations de la paix de Ryswick*, second edition, Vol. II., p. 25.] (XVII., No. 9.)

SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, May 21 [–31]. Whitehall.—"I hope your business of Ireland has received the King's approbation, and that his pleasure will be signified accordingly. All I can say is that in this matter, as well as all others relating to you, I have been and shall always be very zealous and very sincere to use my little interest in your behalf. I hope this will come soon enough to your hands before you leave The Hague, and because we courtiers are not apt to do something for nothing, I am going to give you a little trouble, and will make it as short and as easy to you as I can. The story is this.—

"When I was at Paris, Mons. Lilierote, who was very kind to me, lent me two volumes of the Treaty of Nimeguen, *i.e.*, the letters from the French Court to their Ambassadors at that Treaty, and the Ambassadors' answers, which I had copied; and then these two volumes were all he had. He has now three volumes more, which I have written to him to do me the favour to trust in your hands, and entreat you to procure on such terms as you can some tolerable amanuensis to copy them for me, and to leave somebody, when you come away, to see them well (*i.e.*, truly) transcribed; that you would let them be copied on good paper, such as may not blot through, with a margin on the inside large enough for their being bound up afterwards so as to open well; and a larger margin on the outside; desiring they may be sent over hither in quires, to have them bound as my other two tomes are.

"That you may be sure to begin the third volume right, I desire you would see the end of his second; the last letter in my second volume being one from Mons. de Pompone to the French Ambassadors at Nimeguen, dated the 28th December, 1677.

"Be pleased to let the person you leave entrusted with these books have an express charge not to suffer any other copy to be taken: if you have any inclination that way, you may command mine when you please: and when one volume is finished, then the transcriber to be paid according to your agreement with him, which I will repay to your order, and then sent over to me by the first conveniency."

Postscript.—"Let me know when you design to be here, when my Lord Lexington comes to the Congress; who is to be your successor in the Secretaryship to the Embassy; and what judgement you make of the great affair, &c." (III. 23.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, May 21 [-31]. Whitehall.—"Your Lords Justices went away this morning, and lie to-night at Dunstable; it will be Wednesday before they get to Chester. They intend to strike off from Coventry and make my Lord Duke a short visit.

"I have done what I could that Mr. May, the second secretary, might officiate for you till your arrival, and I hope it will be so ordered; and I have spoke to him that he be accountable to you for the profits, which he hath promised, and that he will refer himself to you for what you think to allow him for his pains." (III. 24.)

ARTHUR PODMORE to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, May 22 [-June 1]. Dublin Castle.—Having for many years before and since the Revolution been employed under the Chief Secretaries to the Governors in Ireland, is desirous likewise to serve under Prior. Refers to Lord Coningsby, and also to Sir Cyril Wych and Mr. George Clarke, who were secretaries there, who will favour him with their good word.

Since the year 1690, a relation of his, Joshua Dawson, has been in the office with him, and the business, whether in times of trouble or peace, has not required more; and if Prior will be pleased to accept of their service, all commands will be performed without other assistance. (III. 25.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, June 1. [N.S.] Cockleberg.*—"It is certain the naming the King at least once in the body of the treaty is the more necessary, since in an answer made in England to King James' late Manifestos and printed by authority, wherein King James calls upon the Princes of Christendom for the execution of their treaties with him, it is laid down as a maxim that the obligation of all such treaties goes to the possessor of the Crown, and consequently that there is nothing due from them to King James; and you know our English proverb in all such cases.

"Your reason for a general communication of all the Articles at once is very good, if it were possible for the French to have digested the pill you had prepared for them—at least without a better vehicle. 'Tis therefore in order to the finding out a fit temperament that the Dutch Ambassadors are to discourse again with the French about that point; and to delay any longer the giving in our main project would throw upon us in the eye of the world the procrastinations so much complained of.

"Have not the French submitted all their reunions before this war to an entire restitution? And give me leave to tell you their conquests upon the Hudson's Bay Company had no other pretence than that of a reunion upon account of the first discovery, so that although the Hudson's Bay Company do now tell you in the papers remaining in your hands that they are masters in fact as well as by right of all that Bay, and consequently of the peltry trade, the French upon signing our treaty will come in for their share, and show a new title to their imaginary pretensions.

* *I.e.*, Kokelberg, near Brussels.

"For the general negotiation your progress is indeed retrograde, and till there be an inward desire in all of you to despatch, there will be none. There is nothing so easy as to hinder a treaty as well as to write against a religion; but to promote or propagate either in the present circumstances—*Hoc opus, hic labor est.*

"We talk much of the Pensioner's coming hither. Your letters make no mention of it."

Postscript.—"I should with submission have said something to you of the style and correctness of your project, but their Excellencies saying 'twas to be given in Latin would have made my criticisms unnecessary." (III. 29.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, May 23 [-June 2). Malines.—"I come now to wish you joy of your new office, the King having resolved that you be First Secretary to the Lords Justices of Ireland. This I have signified to my Lord Villiers, and asked his opinion what may be fit to be done further for the fixing you in that employment.

"I am indeed heartily glad of your success in a business that may, I believe, very much save your circumstances. Do not fail to thank my Lord Albemarle for his good offices, and to own the obligation to His Lordship."

Postscript.—"The second secretary must officiate during your absence." (III. 26).

Matthew Prior to Mr. Powys.

1697, June 4. [N.S.] Hague.—Acknowledging the receipt of the plate for the Embassy, and thanking him for his care and trouble in procuring it. "For my aunt, *patience* is the word. I hope to bring her home the peace, which is better than 40*l.* ready money. Lowman and I shall agree about the candlesticks, as you and I shall, I have reason to hope, in everything." *Copy.* (X. 287.)

Matthew Prior to the Marquis of Winchester.

1697, June 4. [N.S.] Hague.—"I hope this letter may find Your Lordship safely arrived in Ireland. I wish I may likewise soon be there to receive and execute Your Lordship's commands according to what as well my inclinations as my duty requires. I take the liberty to add to what Mr. Blathwayt will have written to Your Lordship, that your dispensing some time with my absence will complete the obligation you laid upon me when you chose me: and that by my diligence and constancy in the service when I am upon the place, I hope to atone for my being detained some time from it.

"As much as one can guess at the peace, it will advance by large steps at one time. The French to a bundle of

postulata, which the Imperialists gave in, have returned a previous question in four lines and with it a sort of answer: they ask the Imperialists if they have agreed to the Preliminaries of the 10th of February last or no; if they have, the demands they now make (say the French) are unreasonable and not to be granted; if they have not, the French add that they are ready to begin to treat upon a new foot with them. This, however pressing it seems, will (Your Lordship sees) oblige the Germans to think of treating one way or other in earnest, and that side of the negotiation being once brought to any head, the whole affair, I think, will move with more ease and quickness. Your Lordship will pardon the boldness I take of writing to you without your leave, since the honour you have done me in admitting me your secretary seems to entitle me to a sort of right to do so." *Copy.* (X. 286.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, June 8. [N.S.] Cockleberg.—"I . . . . cannot imagine the reason why their Excellencies are so hard-hearted to Mr. Secretary Trumbull as not to send him a copy of your project, as well for his private satisfaction as you are in his province, as for the communicating upon occasion to the Lords Justices the whole or such part of it as they may desire to be informed of. But be it as it will, you know there has been no occasion for my requesting it of their Excellencies, the project having been given me by the King with orders concerning it which I signified to their Excellencies; so that so many clerks as I had, so many copies I might have taken of it without bringing you under censure or the imputation of discovering secrets; though, indeed, upon an English, Dutch and German post-day my people were so employed that I rather chose to rely on your hands when they might be at leisure. The matter being thus circumstantiated, their Excellencies could have no reason to suspect you of a breach of trust; but lest they may do so, I must not conceal from you that the Pensioner, being with me here, told me he had occasion to discourse with the King upon the Separate Article, that he had brought no copy of it nor of the project, knowing he might apply to me for it; and therefore, if you think that upon a conference with their Excellencies he may happen to produce your hand, you may, if you please, wait upon him in my name for it and thereby save yourself harmless, and send me either that copy or another of that Separate Article, if there be no danger in it.

"I have already told you the clause about Hudson's Bay is not only useless but hurtful to us; but that, you know, is not my fault.

"I had writ this when I receive yours of the 5th instant, where you say you hope to send me the treaty by the next post. I suppose you mean the treaty in Latin, since you know I have it in French, except the Separate Article, which

His Majesty by me ordered their Excellencies to keep back and the matter of it to be negotiated by our friends with the French Ambassadors. This is only to yourself, as you will find by the style. My other letter will be communicated by you to their Excellencies.'' (III. 39.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

[1697, about June 8. N.S. Hague.]—'' To the enclosed answer made by the Imperialists to the trying question of the French, I have only to add that by next post I hope to send you the reply which M. Harlay is already forming, and which in all appearance will be something decisive. Lord Villiers will acquaint Your Honour with the success of his visit to the Danish Ambassador's, whose master has taken time to chastise his pupil, who on the other side is as stubborn as one can imagine. There is nothing can still these people but the general peace.'' *Copy.* (X. 288.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [CHARLES MONTAGU,] CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

1697, June 11. [N.S.] Hague.—Lord Villiers says '' that his business is before you, and that he is a good deal in pain that the report of it is not come over to this side. You do not think I am impudent enough to intercede in this matter; but I cannot forbear pouring forth an ejaculation or two that everything may succeed to my Lord Villiers, and this particularly which lies between you and him, the two men I have reason most to love, and whom I would have love each other as much as I do either.

'' Our negotiation must move, I think, though the Germans clog the way with quires of *postulata*, to which the French gave a short answer on Saturday that they never intended to treat on any other foot, nor would debate on any other articles than those contained in the Preliminaries of the 10th of February, upon which only they are ready to begin to enter upon a treaty. The Imperialists grumble at this answer, but, I think, cannot reply to it.'' *Copy.* (X. 288–9.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, June 13. [N.S.]—'' The enclosed contains all our Congress proceedings, which, we hope, are set upon a foot to advance faster. My Masters are thinking of our business in particular, and I am very glad to find it is thought high time they should do so. The French have, I hear, answered Mons. Dyckvelt on this subject, that they are ready to renounce King James in as formal terms as can be proposed, provided he be not named.''

'' Mr. Stepney, your *spes altera*, is, I hope, speaking his gratitude to you this week as I was the last. I don't know how either of us can do it enough.'' *Copy.* (XVI. 18.)

Sir William Trumbull to the Lords Ambassadors Pembroke and Villiers.

1697, June 4 [–14]. Whitehall.—"That I might more effectually answer Your Excellencies' desire . . . to know whether our affairs in America have received any essential alteration, between the making of the treaty of Breda in 1667 and the beginning of this present war, I sent to the Council of Trade before whom those matters lie more immediately, to be informed thereof. And they let me know yesterday that, having looked intothe papers given in to them, upon occasion of their preparing a project of a Treaty of Commerce with France, they do not find anything further on that subject than what is contained in certain papers, copies whereof were transmitted to me in April last, duplicates whereof were annexed to the copy of the project of Treaty of Commerce with France which were put into my Lord Ambassador Pembroke's hands here ; but there being mention made in the copy of a letter from the Hudson's Bay Company amongst those papers, marked E, of damages done them in ships and goods, such an account will be sent as soon as it can be made up. However, I hope this may answer Your Excellencies' expectation at present, in relation to the first part of your demand, and I will send you an answer to the second part, that is, of damages done since the beginning of the war, as soon as possibly it may be done with any certainty." *Signed.* (III. 30.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1697, June 6 [–16]. Dublin Castle.—Obliged to Prior that he approves his appointment as Secretary to the Lords Justices during Prior's absence. A Parliament will probably meet at Dublin about the end of July. (III. 31.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, June 18. [N.S.] Hague.—"It is impossible for us, from those papers my Lord Ambassador Pembroke has, to form any judgment of the state of our plantations. According to what I have heard, it is most probable things will be settled with the French as at the beginning of the war ; and if we may believe Mons. Dyckvelt, our business will be proposed by him to them to-day. I cannot learn but that the French are earnest enough for a peace, and I believe these people are pretty well advanced towards it." *Copy.* (X. 291.)

The Earl of Pembroke and Lord Villiers to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, June 11–21. Hague.—Requesting him to send an abstract of England's gains and losses in all her plantations, colonies and forts from 1667 to the beginning of the present war : the French enquire more particularly about St. Christopher's and Acadie. *Copy.* (XVI. 23.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, June 11 [–21]. Whitehall.—"The first part of your queries about America was answered, by referring to a state of that matter given to my Lord Ambassador Pembroke before His Excellency went from hence, and the answer to the second part is not yet come from the Council of Trade, who is our oracle in matters relating to that other world.

"We are enquiring into the state of the jointure of the late King's Queen, and though the settlements made on her, when he was Duke of York, are not to be found in any office here, we hope they may be procured, so as to be sent by next post, and that then you may have the answer likewise to the last question about America.

"Her jointure was considerably increased after she was Queen, and I have copies of those warrants out of the Treasury." (III. 34.)

The Lords Ambassadors Pembroke, Villiers and Sir Joseph Williamson to William III.

1697, June 24. [N.S.]—Enclosing the project of the peace which they have drawn up, and desiring the King's pleasure therein. The French wish to have a copy in Latin; but the paper the Ambassadors send is in French, in which language the Dutch Ambassadors have discussed most of its points with the French.

"One point of our instructions was that an article might be inserted to settle a Treaty of Commerce. Your Majesty will see that such an article is omitted, we leaving it to them to be proposed, since the balance of trade, as it now stands, is evidently on the English side.

"Your Majesty will see that the 6th Article relates only to the French who are your own subjects. The Dutch insert a like article in favour of the French who are their subjects. As to the affairs of the French Protestants in general, we will act conjointly with the ministers of the States and of the other Protestant princes here.

"Your Majesty will find that the 7th Article settles the affairs in America on the foot they were in at the beginning of the war, which we understand to be Your Majesty's pleasure. Most of the other articles are conformable to those which England has generally made in their [*sic*] treaties with France.

"We expect from the Pensioner the Article concerning the Principality of Orange. We have followed Your Majesty's directions in consulting with the Pensioner about this particular Article concerning the late King James. He is of opinion that it should be drawn up, as we presume it is, in the strongest terms imaginable; and that King James should be mentioned therein expressly and by name. The Ambassadors of the States have had several conferences with the French on this point, and have always represented this nomination as a thing essential to our negotiation, and

from which we could no way recede. The French are very positive that their Master cannot in honour consent to the naming a prince in this manner, with whom he has been in so long and so strict an alliance. We humbly desire to have Your Majesty's directions how we are to behave ourselves in case the French persist.

"In the discourses which the French Embassy have had with the Dutch, they have mentioned the restoring the rebels who have followed King James' party." *Copy.* (XVI. 27-9.)

J[OHN] ELLIS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, June 15 [–25]. Whitehall.—"I find I reckoned a little too fast, when I told you, in my last, that I hoped to send you an account, by this post, of the settlement of the jointure of the late King James' Queen; that part of it which was settled on her when he was Duke of York being not so easily to be come at as that augmentation made after he was King; the copies of which warrants, taken out of the books in the Treasury Office, I send you herewith as an earnest of the rest, whereby you will see that she was to enjoy above 47,328*l.* a year, before her husband's death, and after it too, if she outlived him; all these grants being made to her during her natural life, and to be paid immediately to her, without coming into the Exchequer. What the value of St. James's House was I cannot tell; that I presume was given her for a nursery."

To "the second part of my Lords Ambassadors' question, about damages done us by the French in America, since the beginning of this war to this time, I am enabled from the Council of Trade to make you this answer, namely, that their Lordships have nothing more to offer upon that subject, with relation to the state of America, either before or since the war, than what is contained in those papers, which were transmitted to Mr. Secretary Trumbull the 5th and 17th of April last, and that they have yet received no answers from the Hudson's Bay Company as to the particular damages done them in their ships and goods. This last seems none of the material alterations, and so not to be comprehended in my Lords Ambassadors' question; but Mr. Penn having some time since given me a small Memorandum about a place called Corotoque, I send you a copy of it, to be made use of as you shall find occasion, if it be of any use.

"Copies of the papers aforementioned, given to Mr. Secretary 5 and 17 April, my Lord Ambassador Pembroke had before His Excellency went from hence; so that the answer to their Excellencies' second question is by way of reference, as that to the first was." (III. 35.)

THE MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, June 15 [–25]. Dublin.—"I received directions from the King by Mr. Blathwayt signifying his pleasure that

he thought it necessary for his service that you should remain where you are for the present, and that he would dispense with your attendance in the meantime, which I acquainted my Lord Galway with. When you come, I hope you will bring peace with you, and in the meantime I shall be very glad to hear sometimes from you. This day the Parliament here was adjourned until the 27th of next month.'' (III. 36.)

William Blathwayt to the Lords Ambassadors.

1697, June 17[–27]. Camp at Cockleberg.—'' His Majesty, having perused Your Excellencies' letter of the 24th inst., with the enclosed draught of a treaty with France, and Separate Article relating to King James, has commanded me to return them to Your Excellencies with the signification of his pleasure that Your Excellencies deliver the said draught of a treaty to the Dutch Ambassadors, to be given with the addition of the article concerning Orange by them to the Ambassadors of France in the language proposed by Your Excellencies. But that the Separate Article be not delivered to the French Ambassador until those of Holland shall have discoursed with them further upon the subject-matter of it, and His Majesty's further pleasure shall be known therein.

'' The only alteration His Majesty has directed in the said draught is the naming of both Kings, which His Majesty has thought necessary at least of himself to obviate all chicanes the French might at any time make in favour of King James. And if Your Excellencies shall think fit to name His Majesty more than once, or to add any relatives to His Majesty's Christian name in any parts of the draught, it is left by His Majesty to Your Excellencies' discretion.'' (III. 40.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, June 27. [N.S.] Camp near Brussels.—With yours of yesterday '' I received a copy of the first article of the treaty between the Imperialists and the French. Now I return their Excellencies the draught of a project of peace with France, without much alteration, but I must observe to you in particular that your 7th Article will be of the greatest prejudice to the Hudson's Bay Company, as you may have judged by the papers received from the Council of Trade; for that by this article all those places taken from that Company before the war, and retaken by them during the war, must be restored to the French, whereas we have not in nature a reciprocal to give us an equal advantage; for let me tell you, your 4th Article will not help us in this case, but on the contrary, as I could explain to you for your private satisfaction if the post were not going away, and show you that three words would have mended the matter, I mean an exception of these evident *voyes de fait* the French made use of before the war, and which was a cause assigned for it in the declaration of war, wherein we shall now have

no remedy. But all this is only by way of discourse with you, which your former letters have engaged me in; not doubting but their Excellencies have had their superior reasons to word the treaty otherwise, so that it could not be fit for me on a sudden to hinder the progress of it by a single discussion with the King at so critical a time.'' *Signed.* (III. 42.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF DORSET.

1697, June 28. [N.S.]—'' I have hoped that our treaty might long before this have afforded something material enough for me to have troubled Your Lordship with, but by what has been written to Your Excellencies in general on that subject, you see, my Lord, that we are advanced but little beyond our Preliminaries, and in fifteen meetings we have hardly agreed to the first article either of the Imperialists or Spaniards, though they contain little more than *pax sit.* I think the mystery of this slowness on the French side is that they have a mind to see the event of what they hope as well from the West Indies as from Barcelona. We are thinking of that part of the treaty which regards us, and then England and Holland will certainly have quicker answers towards making a good peace, or break off those conferences which as yet advance so little towards it. Your Lordship will see by the enclosed protestation in what a posture King James' affairs stand; this is the last entry he is likely to make. The Mediator when he showed it the Congress declared he received and looked upon it as neither valid or of consequence, but read it only as a curiosity.

'' I am never to write to Your Lordship without repeating my acknowledgments for all your favours. I wish Your Lordship all that leisure and satisfaction to yourself which you deserve, and which your place of Chamberlain kept you from enjoying so entirely as you desired: but I hope, my Lord, you will never leave the Court so absolutely as not to be near it in every case wherein the welfare of the nation may ask your assistance.'' *Copy.* (X. 292.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT

1697, June 29. [N.S.] Hague.—'' My Masters now are in conference with the Pensioner concerning the substance of your letter, so that what I can say is not by authority but by the private spirit. I make bold to tell you then that we always understood till now that the article about King James was by our friends here to have been communicated to the French as any other article whatsoever, lest they, having closed with the common article of peace, restitution, etc., should boggle in this most material one, and turn the reason of the peace not being signed upon our sticking upon what they will call some words only in that point.''

'' I send you a copy of the treaty and great article, and shall think it abundantly returned if you would write me

three words of explanation in the fourth article, and alter the form of the seventh, so as to help the Hudson's Bay Company. . . . . We have not all the light imaginable from the other side, Mr. Ellis having once more referred us to what we had of my Lord Pembroke from the Commission for Trade, which paper is very imperfect; and . . . . though they would altogether labour to inform us, you can do it something better.

"The enclosed will show you how little has been done at Ryswick. If we do not get into a better method (which I believe we shall not do till the French see what becomes of the affairs of the West Indies and Barcelona), we shall have time enough to have our projects corrected and the manner of proceeding in them rightly adjusted. The Imperialists have been as well with the Dutch Embassy as with my Masters to concert with them as an answer to the French, that, since they neither liked the first way of going on upon the *postulata* in general nor the second of answering to each article separately, there was no method left but for them (the French) to specify to all the Allies what lengths they would go, and what points they would accord for the general peace, and that the Allies might upon that declaration return their several answers. This, I think, will be moved to the Mediator to-day, and without the spirit of prophecy one may guess that the French will shuffle up an imperfect answer of their having already declared themselves on this account in the Preliminaries, and so I am afraid we shall have run round a circle, and shall find ourselves the next week where we were a fortnight ago.

"The Mediator spoke at Ryswick on Wednesday about this protestation of King James, which I send you enclosed; but as a thing no ways authentic or of consequence, but what he looked upon only as a curiosity. I did not misunderstand you as to my Master J[oseph] having conversed with the Plantations: may be so; but we keep our knowledge as carefully up as our money: though I know no time when the expense of either will be so necessary as now." *Copy.* (X. 294.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

[1697, June.]—Project of the treaty between the Kings of Great Britain and France, "as it was returned from His Majesty under cover of Mr. Blathwayt, 29 June, 1697." *French. Corrected draft.*

[This is essentially the same as the text printed in *Actes et Mémoires*, 2nd ed., Vol. II., p. 189: but the wording is in many cases different.] (XVII. 10.)

The Earl of Pembroke, Lord Villiers and Sir Joseph Williamson to [James] Cresset.

1697, June 29. [N.S.] Hague.—"On Thursday [June 17–27] Mons. Hespen communicated to the Congress of the

Allies here the substance of a letter which he had received from the Duke [of Holstein], his master, wherein that prince expostulates the hardships he is under; hopes due means may be taken in order to a just reparation, and assures the Allies that in as much as in him lies he will take care that the peace in the North be not disturbed. The Congress desired the ministers, whose principals can any ways be concerned in this affair, to write to them to interpose their good offices.'' Instructing him to act in this matter with the ministers of Saxony and Brandenbourg and Mons. Hop, to whom the Pensioner has written to the same effect. *Copy.* (XVI. 33.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, June 22 [–July 2]. Whitehall.—'' I hoped to have sent you by last post the account enclosed of the late King James' wife's jointure, which was settled upon her when he was Duke of York, in a more authentic form than this is; though I believe the substance of it is the true state of that matter, but that we have to do with a very perverse person; but if anything further be necessary for your satisfaction in this point, we must look for it in the Rolls, where we are told it is to be found.'' (III. 41.)

The Lords Ambassadors to William III.

1697, July 3. [N.S.]—Acknowledging the receipt of the draft of the treaty. In the article of mutual restitution of places taken during the war they have inserted the words,—'' Except such places as belong to His Majesty of Great Britain, which the French seized during the peace immediately preceding this war,'' in order to retain possession of the forts in Hudson's Bay which the French seized in time of peace and the English recaptured during the present war. This exception they submit to His Majesty's approval, as being for his service, though not in strict accordance with their instructions. *Copy.* (XVI. 36–8.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, July 5. [N.S.]—'' We expect the Pensioner from the army to-day: in all probability he will bring us methods for a more expeditious way of carrying on a treaty; or else I cannot see what this method can come to.

Mons Dankleman, second of the Embassy of Brandenbourg being arrived, the ministers from the crowned heads make the same difficulty of visiting him as they did at Nimègue. Sir Joseph Williamson has informed us of what was done in that case by King Charles twenty years since, ... and their Excellencies desire to know His Majesty's pleasure therein, in order to their seeing Mons Dankleman.'' *Copy.* (X. 297.)

Jos[hua] Dawson to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 27 [-July 7]. Dublin Castle.—To the same effect as Podmore's letter of 22 May [-June 1] (p. 122, *supra*). Hopes Prior will not think it necessary to bring over any clerk with him, as Podmore and he can very easily discharge the whole business of the office, and the fees are but sufficient to maintain two clerks. (III. 44.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 8. [N.S.] Camp.—"I have laid your letter of the 5th instant before His Majesty relating to Mons. Danckleman, ... also two enclosed papers received from His Excellency Sir Joseph Williamson; in answer whereunto His Majesty commands me to signify his pleasure that their Excellencies do visit Mons. Danckleman, though no ministers from crowned heads have yet done it, and that he be treated, as well as the first minister from that Elector, with the honours of an Ambassador, to which His Majesty is disposed not only by the precedents in this case, but by his particular relation and affection to the person of His Electoral Highness."

Postscript.—"His Majesty is very desirous that this honour be done to the Ambassadors of Brandenbourg by their Excellencies before they receive it from any other ministers whatever." (III. 47.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, July 10. [N.S.] Hague.—"The Congress did nothing on Saturday, the French persisting not to give their project in till the Spaniards (whom they meant, though they expressed it the Allies), were agreed to it. The Spaniards confess their Pyrenean pretentions to be but chimerical, and would close with any temper in the world that might do their business, provided they only keep the bare pretence: in short they did nothing, not that they intend to persist, but because they would see what directions the Pensioner, who came hither on Monday, may have; and indeed we all hope he has His Majesty's pleasure how the great affairs may advance; and Mr. Stepney's Empire must roll on according to that quantity of motion the King will give it, for it is a heavy body and has very little celerity in itself. I have your remarks upon our cause to thank you for. I know who was likewise of the opinion of a wiser man that it should have been reciprocal, but the thing was determined as you find it, and my part was to write what others dictated. The French are digesting the whole project as it is without one word having been mentioned of the great article other than by Mons. Dyckvelt, *viva voce.*

"The Elector of Saxe being chosen King of Poland is all the discourse here. The refugees go no further into the consideration than to pity his spiritual state: the politicians

agree it is well for the present, but are concerned what may come of it twenty years hence, when he may be powerful enough in the Empire to oppress the House of Austria, or if he joins with that House to oppress the Protestant party. This is speculation, but the present influence the thing has is that the Imperialists like a peace less, and the Brandenburg more than before.

"I am sorry that you will see from my Lord Villiers that our poor Consul is faulty; but *fiat justitia, ruat cœlum.* He has often been told he ought not to be nibbling at passports, and after this if he will burn his fingers, they are his own, and nobody can help it. That Mons. Vanderpoele and his clerk Lawrentz took in (as they call it) the passports at the Briele or Helvoet, and gave the passagers notes or tickets of a new fabric and by their own power, upon which notes they went aboard, has been a grievance I have mentioned for some years past, and which must certainly be remedied to make the giving of passports here any way effectual." *Copy.* (X. 300.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Sunderland.

1697, July 12. [N.S.] Hague.—"I have very much wished our Congress might have given me an occasion of writing to Your Lordship without being wholly impertinent, which as yet it has not done. This is no very good character of it, my Lord, after nineteen meetings. I think this slowness may be attributed to the great love the Germans have to method, by which at last they found that they were hardly advanced to the end of the first article, and that *sit pax* was just consented to. The French willingly closed with this irregularity of doing nothing, that they might in the meantime see what became of Pointis' squadron, the siege of Barcelona, the choice of a king of Poland, and if anything might be attempted in Flanders; but these hopes having as yet in a great measure failed them, and the Germans being come off from their darling method of treating singly and by articles, the French have agreed to give in a project at once of what lengths they will go towards a peace, which we expect to see to-morrow.

"The Spaniards were hardly brought to join with the Germans in asking this project, and have at last only done it with their old reservations and chimeras of sticking to the execution of the Pyrenean Treaty; though they durst not have spoken of it, but that they are sure the French cannot recede from that of Nimègue. My Lord Portland has had an interview with Mons. Boufflers, which looks as if a suspension of arms were designed. The Pensioner of Holland has been at the army with the King, and we hope has His Majesty's resolution of what is really to be done at Ryswick, for it seems time to be in earnest, and these Allies have played the fool long enough for form's sake, if they design a peace

at last; and too long, if they do not. The King has approved of a project of peace for England. His Majesty's directions concerning the Principality of Orange, which makes one article of it, we had only the translating of, having had it in French from the Pensioner of Holland. What concerns King James is left first to the Dutch Embassy (who give the French the treaty) to get as far as they can *viva voce*, that a secret article may be formed afterwards. I send this treaty by order of my Lord Ambassador to Mr. Secretary Trumbull and to Mr. Vernon, who will lay it before Your Excellencies of the Regency. This letter may possibly find Your Lordship at Althorp, which must excuse my troubling you with a particular copy of it.

"I dare trouble Your Lordship with no more foreign news than that the Elector of Saxe is chosen King of Poland, that the French have passed the Rhine, and that Barcelona holds out." *Copy.* (X. 304.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Lexington.

1697, July 12. [N.S.] Hague.—"Here is the copy of our project of peace: I wish Your Lordship here to sign it. I have told Mr. Sutton that we have done nothing at Ryswick this week: in private Mons. Dyckvelt has given in this project for us. We have had His Majesty's approbation of it, though I may venture to say to Your Lordship I think the forming it a little irregular for neither Privy Council digested it, nor Secretary of State formed or drew it up. I am ordered to send it by this post into England, and am not much in pain what they may say against it there, provided there be nothing objected to it at Delft. The exception in the seventh article, *iis solummodo locis*, regards some forts in Hudson's Bay, which the French took from us in time of peace, and which we retook since the beginning of this war, and are at present possessors of; the rest is almost naturally a treaty of peace upon the foot of that of '67 with France; the great article of King James by His Majesty's order left to be treated by our friends first *viva voce*, lest we might ask in a thing so delicate what we might be obliged to retract from. The Pensioner of Holland has been with His Majesty, and has, I believe, his instructions to what will be done in earnest in the great affair, which must advance by much larger steps than it has done or be quite broken off; but I think France will not let it come to that." *Copy.* (X. 302.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, July 12. [N.S.] Hague.—"I am commanded by my Lords Ambassadors to desire you to acquaint the King that the Imperial Embassy was this afternoon with their Excellencies, desiring to be informed if there were any ground for the report of a meeting between the Earl of Portland

and the Marquis de Boufflers. They said that they thought two persons of so considerable a character could not meet upon a small occasion; and added that this conjuncture of time made them more than ordinarily curious to know as much of the occasion and result of it as His Majesty could be pleased to have communicated to them. This request they made with great modesty and with all imaginable respect to the King. This their Excellencies order me particularly to mention to you, and to desire you to represent the thing so to His Majesty, as they may have his commands in what manner they are to answer the Imperial Embassy on that subject.'' *Copy.* (XVI. 46.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 3 [–13]. Dublin Castle.—'' The Lord Justices since their arrival here have issued two proclamations, one for prohibiting the exportation of grain, which is become so dear as to make the subsistence of the poor very uneasy in some parts, which the next harvest does not promise a total redress of without that timely help; which has had the good effect already to lower in some measure the price of corn: the other was to notify the sitting of the Parliament for the despatch of business [among other matters the confirmation of attainders and vesting of forfeitures in the King] on the 27th inst.

'' Capt. Lemel, commander of the *Pontchartrain* of Dunkirk, 44 guns, brought some time since by the *Medway* frigate into Kinsale, who with another officer of that ship was detained there by direction from England in lieu of two English prisoners at Dunkirk, whose names I have not heard, made his escape from Kinsale, and was taken three days ago endeavouring to get a passage from this port to England.

'' On the 25th past were set ashore near Dingle in the county of Kerry, the master, chirurgeon, and ten men lately belonging to the *Mercury* advice-boat of 4 guns, taken the 19th past ten leagues off Ushant by three privateers after she had been in Brest harbour, where she took a fisher-boat, whose people assured them there are fifteen three-decked ships there ready to put to sea; that the men were not on board, but ready in the town.''

'' The two clerks in your office here having desired me to recommend them to your favour, ... I must in justice to them acquaint you that Mr. ' Padmer ' [Podmore], one of them, has been in the office above thirty years, the other, who is his nephew, has likewise served a considerable time, and if you shall think fit to employ them, you will find them very diligent in and capable of the business.'' (III. 45.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, July 3 [–13]. Hague.—'' By order of the Lords Ambassadors I send you the enclosed project of the treaty

in Latin, as (according to His Majesty's command) it was given to the Dutch Embassy to be transmitted to the French. You see in the 7th article, *iis solummodo*, etc., the clause which their Excellencies inserted with relation to our forts in Hudson's Bay: the 10th article their Excellencies added, the substance of it being usually inserted in treaties of peace, and the whole design of it only to oblige each party to the strictest observance of all the rest; their Excellencies therefore do not think it worth troubling His Majesty with any other wise than as you may be pleased to do it, as occasion may serve by way of discourse. The 12th article regarding Orange is translated from what my Lords Ambassadors received from the Pensioner in French. You see by the enclosed journal how little has been done the two last meetings at Ryswick, and how much we expect from that to-day. The meeting of the Earl of Portland with the Maréchal de Boufflers we think may contribute more to the great business than many other meetings of our ministers here. You have seen by the letter I did myself the honour to write to you last night how much the Imperialists desire to know the effect of that meeting; and the world here are upon the same strain: 'tis the whole discourse in conferences, assemblies and coffee-houses, and the least people will have from it is a cessation of arms.

"Their Excellencies have, according to His Majesty's commands, visited Mons. Dankleman with the respect due to an Ambassador: they have likewise (as the Imperial ministers and all others have done) congratulated Mons. Bosen, Ambassador from the Elector of Saxe, upon that Prince's being chosen King of Poland." *Copy.* (X. 308.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 5 [–15]. Camp.—"I have received your letters of the 2nd and 3rd instant written by order of their Excellencies my Lords Ambassadors. In answer to the first, relating to the interview and conference between the Earl of Portland and the Maréchal de Boufflers, and the inquiries made by the Imperial Embassy, His Majesty is pleased to say that their Excellencies have already received sufficient informations and instructions in that matter, which need no repetition at present.

"Upon the latter I have only to inform you that His Majesty has been acquainted with my receipt of the project of our treaty in Latin and additions made thereunto by their Excellencies and with the visit made to Mons. Dankleman, with which His Majesty is very well satisfied." *Signed.* (III. 46.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, July 6 [–16] Hague.—"We did nothing on Saturday: the French only told the Mediator that they intended to give

in their project with all the speed they could: they did not think it could be done by Wednesday, but they would at least endeavour it: thus, Sir, we shall go to Ryswick to-morrow, but do very little there.

"We are as yet in the dark as to the substance of the conference between the Earl of Portland and Mons de Boufflers. The Germans are very uneasy about it, and I believe to-morrow morning we may have at least an answer for their curiosity, whether the right one or no, I dare not promise.

"I sent the project last post in such haste that I am conscious some slips may be made in it, which you will have the goodness to pass by, and Mr. Ellis will take the care to correct.

"Mr. Graham has given me your letter of the 20th June from Easthampstead: the gentleman may be sure of all the service I can do him, and brought a recommendation with him, which shall always have the force of a mandate to me." *Copy.* (X. 310.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, July 9 [–19].—"I am commanded by the Lords Ambassadors to inform you that Mons. Botemar, Envoy from Celle, hath acquainted them that, the Elector of Hanover designing to give his Minister to the Congress the character of Ambassador, he hoped that, as the King had already protected that Prince in his title of Elector, so on this occasion he would allow the usual honours to be paid to his Ambassador. Their Excellencies take it for granted that they may do it, except they have His Majesty's order to the contrary.

"Mr. Bosen has told their Excellencies that, as he is persuaded that His Majesty would favour the election of his Master to the Crown of Poland in general, so he would particularly in giving orders that John Bart might be hindered from coming out, it being said that Bart designs to carry the Prince of Conti northwards: their Excellencies already know what care is taken to hinder Du Bart from coming out: yet they think it proper to acquaint you with what Mr. Bosen had said to them.*

"The French promise their project to-morrow, which was all that was done on Wednesday at the Congress." *Copy.* (XVI. 49.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, July 9 [–19].—"The Elector of Saxe's Ambassador has informed their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors of England that he hopes His Majesty will favour his Master's interest as it relates to Poland, and in hindering Du Bart from coming out of Dunkirk, who, as it is reported, is to carry the Prince of Conti northwards. Their Excellencies have ordered me to write to Mr. Blathwayt what this minister

* *Cf.* Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation*, iv. 251, 254.

has desired, though for reasons more material the squadron to observe Du Bart was ordered out before.

"Mr. Ellis has sent the papers relating to America. I have laid [them] before their Excellencies, though as far as I can find we have omitted nothing relating to our colonies in the project I sent you. As to what regards St. Christopher's these papers refer to what has been done there since the beginning of this war, and care is taken of all that in the 7th article. The African Company mentions damages before the war: this is rectified by the 4th article, and the places which they mention to have been taken since the war are likewise comprehended in the 7th article. What they add, that the French should not traffic into the rivers of Gambia, Nunez, Serelion, etc., is referable to the treaty of commerce hereafter to be settled.

"The business of Newfoundland will likewise be settled, by the 7th article. This is only my own private opinion, and not by order from my Masters.

"Their Excellencies are now at a conference with the Imperialists to tell them the substance of the conferences which the Earl of Portland has had with the Marshal de Boufflers: the substance of which is held here as the greatest secret imaginable. It was that whereas the King of France has said he was ready to make a peace, and that the King obstructed it, His Majesty thought himself obliged to let all the world know that he was ready and willing to agree a peace, provided it was reasonable and honourable, and that he first chose to let the French King know his opinion to be such, adding that he did not think it proper that the Allies should let a negotiation continue which could not but be prejudicial to them, except the King of France did in earnest desire the conclusion of it. Mons. Boufflers' answer in the second conference was that he had express order from the King his Master to assure His Majesty that his designs for a peace were real, and that he had given his Ambassadors orders by which the Allies should see that they acted accordingly. I hope we may see the good effect of these promises, and thought it my duty to give you the best account of this affair that I could, though as yet I know it but imperfectly.

"I gave our project of peace by order of their Excellencies to Mr. Lilienroot yesterday." *Copy.* (X. 312.)

The Earl of Galway to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 10 [-20]. Dublin Castle.—Explaining why he has reduced certain dues payable by officers in the army at the Secretary's Office. *French. Signed.* (III. 48.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 12 [-22]. Camp.—"Their Ambassadors are to represent to Mons. Bosen that His Majesty, being ready to

do all things that may tend to His Highness the Elector of Saxony's quiet possession of the crown of Poland, has given orders to the English and Dutch squadrons before Dunkirk to hinder as much as in them lies the coming out of John Bart or his carrying the Prince of Conti to those parts, according to Mons. Bosen's desires.'' *Signed.* (III. 49.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 22. [N.S.] Cockleberg.—'' Their Excellencies had an account by an express that went away this morning of yesterday's interview between my Lord Portland and Boufflers. These conferences are only in aid of yours at The Hague and Ryswick, and tending only to quicken the treaty or shorten the Congress. The Separate Article between us and the French you will find to be the chief occasion of demurs on both sides.

'' I desired you this morning to send me as soon as possible in Dutch or French the treaty of Breda between us and the Dutch.'' (III. 53.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—'' I send you herewith, by Mr. Secretary's direction, a copy of a memorial newly sent him from the Council of Trade, relating to the sufferings of the Hudson's Bay Company by the French for several years past ; and the Council say they now expect only some answer from the agents of Barbadoes to finish all they have to offer upon the subject of the alterations which have happened in the King's American Dominions by the French since the Treaty of Breda : so that now you see land in this business, for I think nothing material has been done in Barbadoes. This way of memorials, as they are called, is tedious, and will make you a great [deal] of picking work, which I would have had done to your hand by a short historical account of the matters and accidents ; but some people had a mind to have a maypole, and so you have a long one.'' (III. 50.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, July 25. [N.S.] Cockleberg.—'' I acknowledge the favour of the 24th inst. with the enclosed. I shall give you my deliberate thoughts upon the whole by the next post ; but I may now tell you there is more to be said and done upon the subject-matter by Mr. Hatley's good leave.

'' What the Council of Trade have sent you further about the West Indies is but ' wishewashes ' and nothing to your purpose. I like the news of Pointi[s] and Carthagena very well, since he is kept so long in those parts.'' (III. 56.)

WALRAND PRINCE DE NASSAU to WILLIAM III.

1697, July 25. [N.S.] Au Camp de Nevel.—"Aprenant que négotiations de la Paix commencent à prendre leur train, je prie vostre Majesté de me permettre que je là vienne très humblement suplier de faire la grasce à ma branche de Nassau-Saarbrück de leur accorder une lestre de rescommendation à ses ambassadeurs, et à ceux des Estats Généraux, pour le traicté de la Paix, affin que le député de ma maison les puisse présenter luy mesme aux susdits ambassadeurs et les informer en mesme temps de nos justes prétentions sur la restitution de la prétendue réunion de la Chambre de Metz. Vostre Majesté sçait que nous y sommes considérablement interessez, ce sera un surcroit de grasce que moy et mes parents tascheront de s'en rendre dignes par leurs servisces et submissions très humbles." (III. 57.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, July 27. [N.S.] Hague.—"We have as yet no comment upon the French project, though I believe the Imperialists will furnish us with one to-day. They acquainted the Mediator on Wednesday with the method in which they resolved to answer the French, which was that they would receive or make their exceptions against every article as it lay; and on the other side the Mediator told them that he had used his best endeavours to prevent the French from setting a time for the agreeing to or rejecting this project, after which time they would not look upon themselves as obliged to stand by it, or to perform the contents of it: he added that he thought he hardly could prevail with the French longer than Saturday (this day), to defer proposing such a time. The Mediator told our Embassy that though they were not immediately concerned in the project, he thought himself obliged to communicate the substance of it to them and desired to have their opinion upon it. This is the state of our Congress affairs here: I wish your conferences in Flanders may be easier and more conducing to the great end we propose.

"You judge most truly of the worth of those papers relating to the West Indies which the Council of Trade has sent us; however, having laid them before the Lords Ambassadors, *liberavi animam meam.*" *Copy.* (X. 317.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, July 19—29. Camp.—"His Majesty having received the enclosed letter from the Prince of Nassau Sarbroug [Saarbrück] praying his protection and care of his interests at the treaty of peace, His Majesty is pleased to order their Excellencies to favour the Prince of Sarbroug's pretensions as far as they may be able, in such manner and to the effect the agent of that prince at The Hague shall desire." *Enclosure supra.* (III. 51.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF GALWAY.

1697, July 20 [–30]. Hague.—To much the same effect as the letter to the Marquis of Winchester which follows. *French. Copy.* (X. 323.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER.

1697, July 21 [–31]. Hague.—"The French have at last given in their project to the Allies: it is upon the foot of that of Nimègue, and the House of Lorraine obtains no better conditions than that peace allows them, except the Emperor will consent to an equivalent for Strasbourg, for which France offers Brisac, Fribourg and Philipsbourg, with Huningue to be demolished. Your Lordship sees that the Emperor is pressed upon this equivalent; for in taking Strasbourg he must abate of what he has hitherto pretended for his nephew; and in taking the equivalent he will venture as well the resentments of the Princes of the Empire as the safety of the Circles of Franconia and Suabia.

"The Germans are no way satisfied with the project: they intend to give in their answer to it so as to consent to or make their exceptions against every article in its order. This, my Lord, is the state of our negotiation at Ryswick.

"As to what regards His Majesty's affairs in particular, my Lord Portland has had four conferences thereupon with the Marshal de Boufflers; and I have reason to think they advance in adjusting them. His Majesty with the greatest wisdom and calmness has let the French plainly understand that he will have peace or war, and does not think it expedient to protract a negotiation here which can be no way advantageous to his affairs or those of the Allies in general; and I believe this declaration will do more towards the procuring a speedy peace than all the *factums* and musty papers which can be given in to and transmitted by the Mediator here.

"It is with pleasure that I see His Majesty's affairs under Your Lordship's conduct in so fair a train in Ireland; but with equal regret at the same time, that I reflect I cannot yet be there, where my duty to Your Lordship does so particularly oblige me to be. In the favour of a letter I have had from my Lord Galway, His Lordship informs me that he has (with Your Lordship's joint consent, I presume) retrenched and regulated some of the fees which have hitherto belonged to the secretary. I take the boldness to assure Your Lordship (as I have done my Lord Galway) that, as I am, I hope, the man in the world who would not encourage extortion or injustice, so I entirely submit to any regulation which Your Lordships think proper to be made, and that I wish nothing so much as to have been on the place, that the gentlemen of the army (for it is in that part of the list that the regulation is made) might see that I very willingly declined the reception of any fees or perquisites which might

give any occasion of grievance from their being received, and that I might have made that my act, which with all imaginable respect I acquiesce in as your command.'' *Copy.* (X. 319.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [ARTHUR] PADMORE.

1697, July 21 [-31]. Hague.—Assuring him that he will be retained at his present post in the Secretary's Office at Dublin. *Copy.*

A similar letter to [Joshua] Dawson, of the same date. (X. 321-2.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, July 31. [N.S.]. Cockleberg.—'' We reckon upon Saturday next for the day of our setting out, when we shall get to Breda the same night, and expect to have the Pensioner with us on Sunday.

'' You have an account how the French are changing their camps, which is only the more to engross the forage.

''I shall be very glad to serve their Excellencies in any thing that may further relate to the plantations, but it is not easy to know what they would be at by their enquiries, which are too general.'' (III. 59.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, July 21 [–31]. Hague.—'' I laid the Prince of Nassau Sarburg's letter before their Excellencies.

'' Your private congress in Flanders has alarmed the Imperialists here more than another rebellion in Hungary could do their Master. They were yesterday with the English Embassy, desiring to know the result of my Lord Portland's last conference : my Masters told them it was about the King's affairs in particular, that they were in a fair way, and that His Majesty desired the Allies to think in earnest of bringing the business to a conclusion, which I think it is very evident our Imperialists never meant to do, whatever their *articulatim* way of answering may pretend to. In this very methodical way they are not yet ready, nor have done any more towards answering the French project than murmuring against it. This is the reason, Sir, why I send you no journal of what is done at Ryswick ; for except you would know that Baron Schonbourn's powers were presented by Mons. Lillieroot, delivered to Mons. Caunitz and read by Mons. Norff, there is nothing worth your being troubled with.

'' The French have named the last of August to the Mediator as the time in which the Allies should resolve to come to some fixed resolution about the project ; the Imperialists have prevailed with the Mediator not to declare it to them (at least as yet) publicly, and so plead ignorance

as to any such nomination being fixed. My Masters are going to Ryswick, where we shall hear how these matters go on. It is with the greatest comfort imaginable that we hear His Majesty's affairs are so well terminated." *Copy.* (X. 325.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, August 2. [N.S.] Hague.—"His Majesty leaves the army to-morrow, and will be at night at Breda. The Pensioner and my Lord Villiers meet His Majesty there. My Lord Portland, I have privately heard, will be here in a day or two. All this and the conferences the English and Dutch Ministry have had together (of which the enclosed give you an account) seems to say the Imperialists must be persuaded to their own interest and consent with a kind of *actio mixta*, as the Schools call it, *quae nec voluntaria nec coacta.* I do not yet know in what estate things are left in Flanders; I believe there is no truce formally agreed on, and yet a kind of tacit consent that things should remain as we call it *in statu quo.* This is but my own private conjecture; but I think everybody agrees that His Majesty's quitting the army now does as plainly denunciate a peace, as his going to the field at other times used to speak the continuance of war." *Copy.* (X. 329.)

H. MAY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, July 24 [-August 3]. Dublin Castle.—"This day the Lords Justices received from thence [England] three [bills]: for prohibiting Protestants from intermarrying with Papists; for enabling the subject for distraining corn or hay for rent; and for suppressing friaries, etc.; with three private bills, which come very opportunely to employ the Parliament." (III. 54.)

J[OSHUA] DAWSON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, July 24 [–August 3]. Dublin Castle.—"The military orders and commissions are the chief branch of the profits of your office, and Lord Galway has so reduced them that your yearly advantage will be far short of what other secretaries have usually enjoyed, as you will easily judge by the enclosed copy of the fees relating to the army formerly taken and now appointed. I presume this was occasioned by my Lord's having a mind to oblige the army, but I am sorry he could not think of some other way of doing it than at the expense of your office. We satisfied His Lordship by the books that the fees we take was what has been accustomed for above thirty years past, even when the Chief Secretary was allowed 500*l. per annum* by the King, which has for some years been discontinued. But all to no purpose; our arguments were not of force enough to prevail with His

Lordship to forbear this act of grace to the army till your arrival, which has obliged me to lay this matter before you for your taking such measures therein as shall be thought fit. If His Lordship could be influenced to suffer the former fees to be taken till you come over, I am confident your presence would readily remove all obstructions and put matters into their former method.''

Enclosing table of fees, showing the reductions made by Lord Galway.

Enclosure.

A List of the Military Fees in the Chief Secretary's Office and reduced by the Earl of Galway :—

	Ancient fees.	Reduced to
For a licence of absence to an officer of the army in the Kingdom	0*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*
To an officer out of the Kingdom	1*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* ..	0*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.*
To a non-commissioned officer in the Kingdom ..	0*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*
To a non-commissioned officer out of the Kingdom	0*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*
For a licence to sue any officer of the army or attending the State	0*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*

Fees of Commissions signed in England and taken by the Chief Secretary in Ireland :—

Horse and Dragoons.	Ancient Fees.	Reduced to
Colonel	6*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* ..	2*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*
Lieutenant-Colonel ..	5*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* ..	2*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*
Major	4*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* ..	2*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*
Captain	3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* ..	1*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*
Cornet	1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*
Staff Officers each	1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*
Foot Field Officers or Horse.	Old Fees.	Reduced to
Captain	2*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* ..	1*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*
Lieutenant	1*l.* 15*s.* 0*d* ..	0*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*
Ensign	1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*
Staff Officers each	1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* ..	0*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

(III. 55.)

The Lords Ambassadors to William III.

1697, August 10. [N.S.] Hague.—'' The Imperial Embassy represented to us in a conference on Thursday that Your Majesty having done them the honour to acquaint them by the Earl of Portland of what had passed between His Lordship and the Maréchal de Boufflers, His Lordship had intimated to them that Your Majesty would give way to the accepting an equivalent for Luxembourg. They laid down in a long discourse and with great earnestness that the consequence of such an equivalent would be the exposing the

Electors and Princes of the Rhine to all the inconveniences of a war whenever France should see occasion, and that it would tend to no less than the utter ruin of the Empire, and particularly of the Emperor; that Luxembourg is of the patrimony of the House of Austria and a fief of the Empire, and therefore cannot be alienated by the King of Spain without the consent of the Emperor, which His Imperial Majesty was so far from giving that he would never consent to sign a peace without the restitution of that place: they used many other arguments to this purpose, and added that they had always understood that His Majesty was of the opinion that Luxembourg should not upon any consideration whatever be left in the hands of the French, and that therefore they were the more surprised at this change now.'' *Enclosing*:—Memorial of a Deputation from the Empire on the same subject. *Copy.* (XVI. 64–5.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, August 3 [–13]. Whitehall.—'' I have the favour of yours of 6th instant N.S. to acknowledge; and though all of yours are very valuable, yet this is most of all, it bringing such assurances of peace, the most acceptable thing in the world; and yet, as good as it is, it will do me a damage by depriving me of the benefit of your agreeable correspondence, for when you are in your kingdom of Ireland, the current of your correspondence will run in another channel, and we must expect but the pleasure of a few drops of it. You will have little occasion for Memoirs relating to your business there beside those your office will furnish you with; only it will be necessary that you acquaint yourself with the laws and statutes of the kingdom. One of your disposition, temper and experience will find nothing difficult there; what that people chiefly expect in a person in your post being what you will naturally practise, affability, justice and despatch. This Triple Alliance will secure you against all enemies, or rather prevent any from being so.'' (III. 61.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, August 16. [N.S.] Hague.—'' I send you by order of my Lords Ambassadors the remarks which those of France have made upon our project and the answer which their Excellencies returned yesterday thereupon: their Excellencies desire you would be pleased to lay these papers before His Majesty, and to inform him that the French propose the having a treaty of neutrality in America according to that made by the late King James in 1686.''

'' As to what they advance in their 7th article concerning the possession and propriety which they pretend to have had in Hudson's Bay, their Excellencies desire you would give them what light you can in that affair, and if the matter of fact be true as they represent it, for the informations we

have had on that subject from Whitehall are very imperfect, nothing being mentioned in them concerning Hudson's Bay beyond the year 1682: their Excellencies desire you would let them know His Majesty's pleasure, how they should act upon these two points.

"As to the late King James' Queen, the French desire to have an account of her contract of marriage, what grants or Acts of Parliament were made in her favour, and would have such grants and acts confirmed in this treaty. Their Excellencies think it was not safe to make any other answer than that which they have done. If His Majesty thinks it convenient to have any thing further or more particularly answered on this point, you will please to let them know it." *Copy.* (XVI. 68.)

Matthew Prior to the Marquis of Winchester.

1697, August 6 [–16]. Hague.—"In my last I did myself the honour to tell Your Lordship that our Germans were alarmed lest an equivalent be accepted for Strasbourg: they are so at present and with more reason about Luxembourg for which Menin, Maubeuge, Condé, and Ypres are proposed; some add Tournay, but I think this last is rather what is wished than really expected. The Imperial ministers and those of the four Rhenish Electors are fired about this thing, and we have whole quires of remonstrances, that the Duchy of Luxemburg is inalienable from the Empire, and that the equivalent tends to nothing less than the ruin of these Princes; but His Majesty is, I think, of another opinion. The Elector of Bavaria and the States have reason to be so too; and in all probability the equivalent, which covers Ghent, Brussels and indeed all the Low Countries, and gives a double barrier to these Provinces will be preferred to a great town which asks near ten thousand men to garrison it, which the Spaniards cannot furnish, and the different Princes round it would never consent, who should or in what manner supply that defect.

"As to our affairs the French have agreed to most of the articles in the project, and given in their answer to the rest. My Lords Ambassadors have returned their opinion upon this answer, and sent to know His Majesty's pleasure in a point or two of the greatest consequence, such as their title to Hudson's Bay, and what the late King James' Queen asks for her dowry." *Copy.* (X. 331–3.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Galway.

1697, August 6 [–16.] Hague.—Repeating the above news, and adding that the King is at Loo and the Czar of Muscovy at Nimègue: both are expected at The Hague in a few days, entertainment there being less costly than at Loo. *French. Copy.* (X. 330.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, August 6 [–16]. Hague.—"Their Excellencies desire explication first as to the point of Hudson's Bay Fort, if the matter of fact which they advance be true, or what objection we are to make to it. The Memoirs we have relating to Hudson's Bay go no higher than '82: in this we must beg the Company to be very exact.

"Secondly, their Excellencies desire you to take notice of what the French would have relating to the settlements made to the late King James' Queen; their Excellencies therefore would ask a copy of her contract of marriage, and of what grants she is possessed, and how Acts of Parliament stand as to her pretensions. Of this I have had some papers from Mr. Ellis, but neither the contract or Acts. I wish we could be full and clear in this point, though I hope the subject of it will terminate in nothing further than a civil answer." *Copy.* (X. 335.)

SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, August 6 [–16]. Whitehall.—Having heard that application is designed to be made to the Czar, when he comes into the Low Countries, for the restitution to His Majesty's subjects of the trading privileges which they enjoyed in Charles I.'s time, he has desired the Council of Trade and the Company of Russia Merchants to furnish him with information on the subject, and the latter have promised to transmit a copy of their charters. They wish further to have liberty to import tobacco into Russia, paying a small duty thereon, for they find that "some Dutchmen have obtained a privilege of carrying tobacco into Muscovy for one year duty free;" and they believe that they would have a good share in the trade if admitted to it, since "our tobacco is much better than any the Dutch have, unless they buy it from us." *Copy.* (XVII., No. 30.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, August 19. [N.S.] Loo.—I have "acquainted His Majesty with the proposal made by the French for a neutrality in America, whereupon I send their Excellencies here enclosed the signification of His Majesty's pleasure by way of apostille in the margin of the said answer.

"His Majesty does not think a neutrality in America convenient for us, but, as the referring the consideration of such a treaty to commissioners may induce the French to give their concurrence in other things that may be desired by us, is pleased to agree to such a proposal."

Postscript.—"It is easy to suppose the French will be able to make a reply to the assertions in my paper concerning our right to Hudson's Bay, as they have done heretofore when those matters were in agitation during the late reigns." (III. 68.)

TRADERS AND INHABITANTS OF VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, August 10 [-20]. London.—Requesting his assistance in the furtherance of the objects mentioned in their enclosed petition to the King, since they know him to be "a patron of Virginia and Maryland"; pointing out the advantages of the proposed trade, and expressing a fear that the privilege granted for one year to a Dutchman may be "improved" into a monopoly. *Six signatures.*

Enclosing :—Petition from the same to the King to use his influence with the Czar to procure the removal of the prohibition of the importation of tobacco into his Empire. *Fifty-five signatures.* (XVII., No. 34.)

THE COMMISSIONERS OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS to the LORDS JUSTICES.

1697, August 10 [-20]. Whitehall.—"We have endeavoured to procure authentic copies or extracts of the several grants of privileges made by the successive Emperors of Russia to the Company of English Merchants trading thither. But having been delayed therein for some days by those from whom we expected them, and only answered that the dates or confirmations of those grants have been in the years 1556, 1564, 1569, 1572, 1586, 1599, 1621, 1626 and 1628, we crave leave in the meanwhile, because of the pressing occasion that we conceive there may be for despatch in this matter, to annex hereunto the copies of two of the said grants made by the Emperors John Basiliwitz and Teodore Juanowitz, which we find printed in *Hackluyt's Voyages* as passed in the years 1569 and 1586.

"We have also endeavoured to procure a sight of the instructions given to the Earl of Carlisle, when he was sent Ambassador into Muscovy by King Charles II. in the year 1663 . . . . . but have not yet been able to procure it.

"Nevertheless, upon such information as we have been able by other means to obtain, we now humbly represent . . . . that the privileges thus granted consisted of three principal heads, viz. :—

"Liberty to come with their ships and vessels to any port of that Empire, from a great part whereof all other strangers were totally excluded.

"Liberty to trade within all that Empire inwards and outwards, by wholesale or retail, in what manner they pleased, without paying any manner of customs, tolls, or duties whatsoever, and even without any manner of search or examination of their goods; except only that the finer sorts were to be brought to and first opened in the Emperor's Treasury, that he might have the choice of what should be thought proper for his use and service.

"Liberty to travel in and through that whole Empire, and to reside in what places they thought fit and there to

hire houses, with exemption from taxes, and entertain Russ servants according to their occasions.

"Liberty to carry their commodities through the Russian territories into Persia and other places, and bring back their merchandise from thence through Russia to be shipped for England without paying any custom, or being liable to any manner of search either backwards or forwards.

"Several privileges in points of judicature; and the judgments in controversies between the English and Russes reserved to the Council in Moscow; or if an Englishman by that Council should be found guilty of having injured any Russ, or of other gross fault deserving the Emperor's displeasure, the cause then to be reported to the Emperor himself and by him determined.

"These with many other privileges peculiar to the English were continued till, upon occasion of the Rebellion against King Charles I., they were taken away by the Emperor then reigning: and since that time the English have continued to trade into that country under no better conditions than other foreigners, being forbidden so much as to go up to Moscow without particular license; forbidden to keep Russ servants; obliged to pay a custom of 4 or 5 per cent. for all their commodities; and subjected to many other inconveniences.

"Upon which state of those affairs we humbly offer to Your Excellencies our opinion that what seems unto us most reasonable to be proposed in this present occasion is a general restitution of all those former privileges without entering into the debate of so many particular heads. But if that cannot be so fully obtained, what we esteem of next importance is an exemption for Englishmen from customs; liberty to travel to and to reside and trade in what places they think fit; as also to transport their goods to and from Persia and other places custom free through the Russian Empire. But if this also should be refused, then a diminution of customs by reducing them to one half or one third part would, however, be some advantage. And upon refusal of that also, if it should so happen, and that no manner of privilege can be obtained for the English above other strangers, an assurance, however, that in times to come no strangers shall ever be preferred before them, but that they shall be entitled to whatsoever privileges may at any time hereafter be granted to others, is fit to be desired."

Permission to import tobacco is very important, owing to "the extent of those territories, the number of the people, and their passionate love of tobacco . . . . And this proposition . . . . may not at this time be altogether unreasonable. First, because we are informed that such a permission has been lately granted there to one Thomas Fathomrecht for the importation of tobacco during one year; which seems to us to argue that there is already some

allowance for the use of it. And in the next place we believe the ministers of that Emperor may be made sensible of the great usefulness of tobacco to soldiers in the fatigues and hardships of war, especially in a cold country, which may be an inducement to them to advise the allowance of it; and to incline them the more thereunto, we humbly conceive it also not improper to suggest to them the great advancement to be made in that Emperor's revenue by the duties that may be laid upon that commodity, which the merchants in such case will gladly submit unto." In case the former privileges should be refused, this last request should be strongly insisted on "as some sort of equivalent."

"If this permission can be obtained, though even under a higher custom than is now laid upon other goods, we humbly conceive it will tend more to the advantage of His Majesty and of England than an entire exemption in that country from all other customs whatsoever." *Signed.* J. Bridgewater; Tankerville; John Pollexfen; John Locke; Abr. Hill.

Enclosed are the copies of the Charters mentioned. [The reference to Hakluyt is (ed. 1809) Vol. I. p. 424, and p. 530.] (XVII. No. 33.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, August 23. [N.S.] Hague.—"Our affairs are *sur le tapis:* you will see the state of them by the enclosed papers, and this copy of a letter which I have just now written to Mr. Blathwayt may serve for a key to them. The deduction of His Majesty's rights to Hudson's Bay I had from him: it is very full and continued from the finding out those parts to the present time: the latter part of the letter is, you see, in answer only to Mr. Blathwayt's private opinion to the clause in the 7th article, which stands now,—*excepting such places as belong to His Majesty of Great Britain;* and which Mr. Blathwayt thinks might have been, *in possession of His Majesty.* In a day or two we shall, I suppose, hear what answer the French will give us, or what exceptions they will produce to what we offer.

"The Congress journal is not worth sending to you. Mons. Boreel died on Wednesday night, but the Pensioner supplying his place at Ryswick, and the negotiations being so far advanced, his death will most affect his own private family, whom he has not left, I think, in very good circumstances. The ministers meet every day, that is, such of them as have business, and the usual general meetings on Wednesdays and Saturdays continue.

"The Imperialists will not yet be moved, but necessity is more powerful than their constitution.

"You will hear by your letters immediately from His Majesty that he is still at Loo: we expect him here the next week. If the Czar pleases to honour us with a visit, His

Majesty will likewise come for a day or two, and I hope he will not be further from us than Loo till the great business is perfected.'' *Copy.* (X. 336.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, August 23. [N.S.] Hague.—Their Excellencies have acted conformably to His Majesty's orders, and have laid the enclosed papers before the Pensioner.

'' No. 1 is a Memoir for him in particular, that according to it he may act for us in what relates to the French Protestants. The reason why we only desire a promise that such of these people who are under His Majesty's protection may have liberty is because the French make no farther mention of the Irish ; which if they should do, it would be time enough then to act in it by way of treaty.

'' No. 2 is an article so worded as to give His Majesty's subjects right to whatever they can legally pretend, but will on the other side give no sort of handle to the Irish to demand any reversion of attainders or anything contrary to law.

'' No. 3 contains the pretensions of the French upon Hudson's Bay.

'' No. 4 is the deduction of His Majesty's right to it, translated from the paper you were pleased to send me, till the beginning of the present war, which their Excellencies return as an answer to No. 3. As to your remark upon the clause in the 7th article, *except such places as belong to His Majesty of Great Britain*, their Excellencies are of opinion that it should rather stand so than *in possession of*, since, if the article had been made in general terms, as it would not have been safe, the French having squadrons out, so it would have been against His Majesty's order of settling things as at the beginning of the war ; and if this exception were made particular for Hudson's Bay, it is not likely the French would have granted it : besides, their Excellencies think there was no ground to ask the thing at all but upon supposition of a preceding right, which the words *belonging to* denote.

'' Their Excellencies did likewise give the Pensioner yesterday a memorial of Duke Schomburg's [*sic*] losses and pretensions, and another of the Duchess of Hamilton's titles to the *Duchy* of Chastel-Herault, and Sir William Douglas' claim to some lands in France.

'' The French have not since mentioned a treaty of neutrality or commerce : till they do, their Excellencies do not think fit to begin to start either.''

Postscript.—'' Your query upon the 5th article on the word *usages* to be added is obviated by the *Latin, per sollennes tractatus et vetustam consuetudinem.*'' *Copy.* (XVI. 74–6.)

[1697, August.]—Memoirs mentioned in the preceding letter. *French. Copies.* (XVI. 349–353.)

Matthew Prior to James Cresset.

1697, August 14 [–24]. Hague.—"I own it is a shame that I have not written to you, but so vicious our nature is that we transgress most where we presume we may be easiest pardoned. Mr. Swinfurt has been constant, which may likewise help to atone my negligence; and so much for apology.

"The great business goes on as fast as your unwieldy *corps Germanique* will let it. They are all very angry, but they know not why: the Imperialists are exclaiming against an equivalent for Luxemburg, whilst in their hearts they wish one for Strasbourg and talk as high here as if Charles I.* lived at Vienna, whilst my Lord Lexington writes me word from thence that they have neither money nor credit: but *compellantur ut veniant* will be found as true now as it was in the times of the Apostles, and they must growl on till the day they sign the peace. Our Brandenburgers are very troublesome because France does not treat with them in particular, and though we never opposed it, they lay the blame on us: they dislike the peace in general, which is the reason that they appear so angry against this particular circumstance of it, and subsidies and quotas are too good things to be left off all of a sudden without regret.

"The Spaniards and French are every day in conference: their business is very well advanced. I hear no more of any equivalent [that] will be preferred to Luxemburg. The Spanish Ambassadors here dare not consent to it before the Elector of Bavaria does, and the Elector would not take it upon himself though he desires it passionately."

Our own affairs are, God be thanked, *sur le tapis*, and though the great point was adjusted at the army there is work enough in them. "The French have insisted upon an article for Queen Marie's dowry, which in other words is for King James a pension; but nothing of this will be granted, and I hope in few days we shall have adjusted our points, except those which, relating to *marchandises*, will be referable to a treaty of commerce hereafter if the French ask the setting such a treaty on foot.

"Mr. Hill is with us. Mr. Stepney is going for England, and I hope it will not be long before I think of Ireland." *Copy.* (X. 339.)

Negotiations with Russia.

1697, August 26. [N.S.] Dieren.—Instructions to Pembroke, Villiers, Lexington and Williamson to welcome the Czar or his Ambassadors on their arrival at The Hague, and to endeavour to procure for the King's subjects such privileges as they formerly enjoyed, and such further privileges as they now desire; assuring the Czar of the King's strict friendship

* *I.e.*, Charles I. of Spain, the Emperor Charles V.

and his desire for mutual benefits of trade between their subjects. *Sign Manual. Signet.* (XVII. No. 35.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [WILLIAM] AGLIONBY.

1697, August 17 [–27]. Hague.—"I should much sooner have answered yours of the 3rd if it were not for much business and sore eyes. Our own affair is *sur le tapis.* I have this afternoon transmitted our secret article: it is strong enough to confound our Jacobites. I think I had best turn it into verse and send it to Mr. Dryden, for I would fain have him enough of our side to write a panegyric upon the King, in answer to Dr. Blackmore's satire.

"We are every day at it at Ryswick, either Imperialists or Spaniards. The former are as stiff as ever, and will only come to because they must; the latter will take an equivalent for Luxemburg, and are at last so bent upon the peace that they stick at nothing but some dependencies and villages; and that I think is only to seem to have something to do till the other part of the *Augustissima Casa* let us know what they would be at.

"I have letters from Ireland that only tell me one of my Masters is married and the other rules like Titus with great virtue and without a Berenice. Your reflection upon their speech is too severe; men of their quality are not obliged to be wits, and people have not chosen kings for being so since the reign of Fleckno.

"I wish the third of my Masters were in his dominions, and so does he too. Most wise governors are of opinion things go best when they are present: the Czar perhaps may be of another mind. The Master I mentioned is very much your servant.

"Pray tell Mr. Tollet of your office that I have forwarded his letter to Mr. Howard; and throw away a line or two upon me at your leisure, to inform me how the great affairs go of politics and poetry." *Copy.* (X. 341.)

THE EARL OF GALWAY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, August 19 [–29]. Au Château de Dublin.—"Mettant à part l'intérêt public, je me réjouis de l'approche de la paix par le plaisir qu'elle nous fait espérer de vous voir bientôt icy. Nous y aurions déjà bien besoin de vous, pour nous aider à surmonter les petits embarras, qui ne laissent pas de traverser, quelquefois, le cours des affaires qui sont dans le meilleur train. Mais quoy qu'il en soit, nous n'avons pas lieu de nous plaindre. Les 150,000 pièces accordées au Roy, acquitteront toutes les dettes. L'on travaille à en établir les fonds, et nous avons tout lieu d'espérer que les affaires continueront à avoir le succès que nous pouvons désirer. Hâtez-vous le plus que vous pourrez, de venir travailler avec nous, puis qu'apparemment vous n'aurez plus guère d'occupation où vous êtes. Ce sera pour moi une satisfaction particulière." *Signed.* (III. 66.)

ST. GEORGE [Ashe, Bishop of] CLOGHER, to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, August 19 [-29]. Dublin.—"I am infinitely obliged to you for your favour in recommending my brother to be my Lord Villiers' chaplain, and shall endeavour by all the ways I am able to express my gratitude both to you and His Excellency. All that I here converse with have the same opinion of my Lord's goodness and integrity which you bear so advantageous a testimony to, and do long for his coming among us, not only for the happy peace which we expect he will bring with him, nor only for your good company which attends it (though these two are precious things), but also for the many advantages we propose to ourselves under his government.

"Our present session of Parliament will not furnish me with much news to send you, for we very peaceably endeavour to do the King's and the country's business, without heats or *brigues* which are usually the most fruitful topics of news and correspondence. The Commons have voted 150,000*l.* to the King (which is a very great sum for our poor country), and are now upon ways and means to raise it. We are also making some necessary laws against troublesome Papists, and such as may prevent future rebellions in this country.

"Since my last to you the King has been pleased very advantageously to change my title, but nothing shall ever alter me from being," etc. (III. 67.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, August 29. [N.S.] Dieren.—"I received the packet you enclosed to me in your letter of the 27th inst., which contained another to me with a petition to the King from the most considerable merchants of England, for the obtaining leave from the Czar that they may import tobacco into Muscovy. His Majesty is very desirous that they be gratified, and has commanded me to send those papers to their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors to make such use of them as of those already transmitted with His Majesty's instructions as their Excellencies shall be able, the matters proposed being of the greatest consequence to the trade of England." *Signed.* (III. 73.)

The EARL OF PEMBROKE and LORD VILLIERS to WILLIAM III.

1697, August 30. [N.S.] Hague.—"The French promise to restore all French prisoners, fishers or others which have been taken on board of English ships, provided Your Majesty will promise to release the Irish, of which the enclosed list contains the names, which, they say, were taken on board French ships. We already have Your Majesty's directions to consent to this point. They insist to be put into possession of those forts in Hudson's Bay taken during this

war (which we excepted in the article of general restitution), but they consent to refer the right of these forts to be adjusted by commissioners: we understand by my Lord Portland that it is Your Majesty's pleasure that we should rather consent to this than retard the treaty. They still insist upon a settlement for the Queen in France, but they will be satisfied with Your Majesty's promise that we shall have her maintenance without making an article of it. As to the commandant mentioned in their remarks, they insist that he should not only be set at liberty, but have satisfaction for his pretended damages, which, they say, amount to 150,000 French *livres*. As to these two last points, though we have not Your Majesty's particular direction, yet if we are pressed to sign the treaty before we can have Your Majesty's answer, we shall venture to consent to them rather than not agree to the signing the peace." *Copy. List of fifty Irish prisoners subjoined.* (XVI. 77.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, August 20 [–30]. Whitehall.—As to the Hudson's Bay Company, and King James' Queen's marriage settlement. "For the contract of marriage, being a private affair, and deposited in private hands, it is not to be found, though much enquiry has been made after it: and it is not thought of such moment in this business as to look longer after it . . . . The King's Counsel . . . decline meddling at all with it, it belonging to the Parliament to judge how far it is affected by the abdication. But one thing is to be taken notice of; that the settlement, properly so called and that can be accounted such in law, is only what was made when she was Duchess of York, which does not amount to 20,000*l. per annum:* all the rest was but voluntary and in the nature of a free gift; and if this be explained to the French, it is probable they will not insist upon the matter, at least not so much as if it were what it seems to be, above double that sum."

Enclosing:—"A Memorial" of the title of the Hudson's Bay Company, and "A State of the Settlements upon the late King James' Queen," together with extracts from letters patent of 1685, August 28, and King's warrants of 1685, July 25; October 26; and December 23. *Copies.* (III. 69.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, August. Loo.—"You see how ready I am to lay myself forth at their Excellencies' desire in the business of Hudson's Bay. The matter is indeed very much perplexed, which I gave you warning of, and told you how our West Indies suffered heretofore for want of information and true measures.—*Nemo poeta nascitur.* I do not see how you will get well out of the difficulty you are engaged in. There

was room for a little artifice, which the French Ambassadors and their Court would have hardly discerned, and then you would have had the applause of the merchants. We are now engaged to leave matters as they were before the war, but, thanks be to God, our American affairs are so well changed that I wish they were to be left *in statu quo nunc*, which would gain us St. Christopher's, worth a million without any probable hazard to ourselves. I can't tell if it be for the King's service that the French Ambassadors should be informed of the good news from Newfoundland, which will make them incline the more to restitutions, which is not to our advantage at present.'' (III. 70.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Sept. 2. [N.S.] Hague.—'' The enclosed paper is the sum and substance of yesterday's conference at Ryswick, and our Imperialists have twenty days more to digest an equivalent for Strasbourg. They have met this morning the ministers of the other princes of the Empire: they are all railing at a project which they must accept at last.

'' Our own affairs are *in statu quo;* and after all the hurry we were in we shall have but too much time before the signing.

'' I have laid before their Excellencies the merchants' petition for obtaining leave to import tobacco into Muscovy, as I had before done those other papers relating to the same subject. I do not know when the Czar or his Embassy will come hither. Mr. Stepney is gone to Amsterdam, I think, to fetch him.'' *Copy. Enclosing the French Mémoire.* (XVI. 81.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, Sept. 3. [N.S.] Hague.—'' We thought we were near a conclusion of the affair on Saturday night, but the Imperialists let the time slip, and the French, being at liberty from the engagements they were under, proposed these new conditions, and as you see with a cavalier freedom. I know not what the Empire will say to this, but I believe the Emperor would rather have the equivalent, and is secretly not sorry that there is a seeming force upon him to take it. However his inclinations are swayed in this point, His Majesty is against the equivalent, and as by this conduct he shows his dislike to the French way of negotiating, so he conserves his glory of standing by his allies. I hope their own wilful humour will not on the other side abuse his generosity, and that means will be found to bring us to a conclusion of the whole affair without any other loss than that of a fortnight or three weeks.

'' My Lord Portland is here and labours with indefatigable diligence and great prudence in this affair. You see, Sir, how delicate it is; we cannot leave our Imperialists, nor

be seen in persuading them to close with this proposition, and yet the conclusion or the breaking off this negotiation depends upon it. Our own affairs are in a manner agreed on; the right of Hudson's Bay will be referred to commissioners; our agents, therefore, will come too late for any but laying their rights before such commissioners when they shall be named, and as to the settlements made to King James' Queen, I hope we shall not have so much occasion for them as we were afraid we might have had, and that the French will [be] or are satisfied with a verbal promise from His Majesty for something in her favour." *Copy.* (X. 343.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to ————.

1697, Sept. 6. [N.S.] Hague.—"Since Sunday everything relating to our Congress has been in so dead a stillness that the prospect of it is melancholy enough in appearance, for I do not see that the French will be brought off so as to restore Strasbourg; and all my hopes of having the thing go down the other way are founded upon my believing that the Emperor does in secret prefer the equivalent, and thinks this sort of extremity the only way will bring the Princes of the Rhine to consent to it, though my Lord Ambassador Pembroke has told the Congress in the King's name that His Majesty will have Strasbourg restored. I hope there are temperaments and means found to bring us from our constancy if the thing cannot be fairly brought about, and that this one demanded town, which no way concerns us, will [not] have influence enough to engage us to prolong a war. The Mediator is labouring under hand in this affair; we have no new orders concerning it from Loo, so I dare not trouble you with uncertainties or with my own hopes or fears in it." *Copy.* (X. 345.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Sept. 7. [N.S.] Hague.—"The Mediator is frequently in new conferences on all sides; if he has had any success, we shall hear of it this afternoon, though indeed I very much doubt of it. My Lord Portland is here: God knows what they are doing; I hope nothing that may venture us in the least to an uncertainty, for I confess to you I am a coward in this point, and if the Emperor has more mind to the equivalent, though he dare not say so, than to Strasbourg, in God's Name let him have it rather than look [lug] us again into the war, which is what we [he] had rather do than have either Strasbourg or the equivalent. This I know is blasphemy to friend Stepney, to whom I dare not say as much, though he be writing in the room with me. All things being at a stand; I can only say that the Hudson's Bay agents and memoirs shall have all the help I can give them when the allies treat with the French, and the negotiation is on its feet again." *Copy.* (X. 348.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Sept. 9. [N.S.] Loo.—His Majesty directs their Excellencies to endeavour that the Comte de Soissons may be included in the treaty of peace with the French if practicable, and to discourse with the Président de la Tour in order to secure his assistance for such a purpose. *Signed. Enclosing the following letter.* (III. 76.)

Enclosure.

THOMAS DE SAVOYE, COMTE DE SOISSONS, to LORD VILLIERS,

1697, August 19. [N.S.] Milan.—"La fièvre m'empêchera, Monsieur, de vous écrire une longue lettre, et particulièrement dans la certitude où je suis que vous aurez des ordres sur mon chapitre, je vous conjure seulement de vous souvenir que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me promettre votre amitié, et que si je ne suis compris dans la paix que vous travaillez à conclure par un article particulier qui me fasse remettre dans le même état ou j'étois en sortant de France, je suis absolument perdu." *Copy.* (III. 77.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, Sept. 10. [N.S.] Hague.—"I know I should not trouble you with the common news which Mr. Ellis lays before you, but probably this may find you at Easthampstead, and this may serve me for an excuse. You see, Sir, we are not so far from the 20th but that one might reasonably expect a definitive resolution as to the great affair against the time. My Lord Portland came hither on Saturday, and after a long conference with the Pensioner went on Sunday morning in great secrecy towards Brussels. As well his servants as people here of greater mark gave out that his coming hither was to order things for the Muscovitish Embassy, and that he returned to the King; but he went again to Flanders, and the design of his voyage is to confer again with the Marshal de Boufflers.

"As far as I can judge of the state of the whole affair, as on one side it would be hard enough to bring France back to the restoring Strasbourg, since Barcelona is taken and consequently Spain mad for the peace on any terms, so on the other side I see it would be impossible to satisfy the Germans if the French were brought back to the preliminaries. I believe what we are endeavouring is to get the equivalent a little bettered; this seems the easier to both parties, and if they could get the French to propose it, I think we should shake hands.

"Mons. de la Tour in a visit to the Mediator on Sunday talked upon this subject, but only as from himself, and as his private opinion. I wish Mons. de Boufflers and my Lord Portland may agree it, for there will nothing be done with our Germans here,

"Mr. Blathwayt has transferred to me the papers he has received from Your Honour relating to our Muscovite trade. which I lay before the Lords Ambassadors, who have a commission to treat with the Czarish Embassy on this subject, and procure all possible advantages for our merchants to trade to those parts." *Copy.* (X. 349.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JOHN ELLIS.

1697, Sept. 10. [N.S.] Hague.—"The negotiation in general is at present at a stand. God send it may move again before Saturday sennight so as to roll into a peace. If not, my being torn into pieces (as yours of the 27th past intimates I must be) is but the least part of the grievance. *Dii meliora!*

"The Jersey men and whosoever else are to be helped by a treaty of commerce will only be set in a way in being so by us, but they and all good subjects shall have my assistance as far as my poor mite may contribute to their good. I hope for all this we shall have our peace. My Lord Portland is gone again to Brussels, but since this is a great secret here, pray let it be so on your side unless you hear it from other hands." *Copy.* (X. 351.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Sept. 12. [N.S.] Soestdyke.—"His Majesty having received the enclosed letter from the City and Republic of Bremen, and having a particular regard to their behaviour on all occasions, is pleased to order their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors to do what in them lies to gratify this city in what they desire, or in such other manner with relation to the general treaty as may be most practicable." (III. 80.)

Enclosure.

THE FREE CITY OF BREMEN to WILLIAM III.

1697, August 25. [N.S.?] Bremen.—Congratulating him on his successes in the war and his endeavours to bring about a peace, and praying him to continue his past favours to the republic by including it specifically among the powers that are to reap the benefits of the general treaty of peace. *Latin. Great seal of the city.* (XVII., No. 37.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER.

1697, Sept. 13. [N.S.] Hague.—"I do not see it probable that the Imperialists will come to a determination within the time prescribed, nor do I think France will recant a step so formally made as that of the 1st instant, the retention of Strasbourg for the equivalent, which (all considerations weighed) may be found equally valuable, being all that King requires for his expense and loss before Barcelona. If the equivalent were made better, there might probably be found some way of closing with it.

"My Lord Portland is gone privately to Brussels to confer again with the Mons. de Boufflers. I believe I am not mistaken if I say some proposal of this kind may be made in the interview, but I am not sure of it, nor say it but to Your Lordship. The Imperialists seem inflexible upon the terms as they now are offered them, but they would be equally so if those terms were better, and the best we can expect from them is that they must be at last (in appearance) forced; for it is sure they like the equivalent best, though they dare not say so to the rest of the Germans.

"My Lord Villiers is gone to the King at Soesdyck to have his orders as to the formal part of something in our treaty, that at least we may be ready when the negotiation, which seems at present dead, may have life again.

"The King has seen the Czar of Muscovy *incognito* at Utrecht. The immediate use we endeavour to make of him is that he would allow tobacco to be imported into his dominions, which has been forbid since the year '48. His own inclinations oblige him to carry on a war with the Turk, and for that purpose to get a fleet ready for the Black Sea. He is absolutely against the French, and that aversion may contribute a good deal towards settling the crown of Poland upon the Elector of Saxony.

"The Prince of Conti is parted from Dunkirk, we say, with a squadron of John de Bart's commanding from Dunkirk, though I have seen good advices from France which say he is gone privately by land, and that only his followers are embarked *pour sauver les apparences*. It is certain his party is stronger than was thought, and that the Elector wants money, the needful qualifications towards succeeding in a Polish Diet." *Copy.* (X. 353.)

Matthew Prior to Sir William Trumbull.

1697, Sept. 13. [N.S.] Hague.—"The letter to Mr. Ellis relates the interview the King has had with the Czar. His Majesty is very well pleased with him and invited him to dinner: the Czar, it seems, thought it civilest to accept the invitation, and sent afterwards to get himself excused." *Copy.* (X. 359.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

Hüningen.

[1697, Sept.]—Memoir: proposing the total demolition of Hüningen as in the interest alike of the Empire, the Protestant Cantons of Switzerland, and the King of Great Britain. (XVII., No. 41.)

French Protestants.

1697, Sept.—Memoir by the Ambassadors of the Allies pleading for toleration for French Protestants, and the liberation of such as are in prison on the galleys on account of religion. *Long list of names. Copy.*

Also: Recommendation to their Excellencies' protection of four Protestant ministers in prison on account of their religion in the castle of Vincennes. *Four names, to wit*: Maturin, Cardell, La Bastide, Giury, Gerault, Salvé. *Copy. French.* (XVII., Nos. 42, 43.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, Sept. 3 [–13]. Whitehall.—"What you tell me of my Lord Portland's journey is, as you desire it should be, a secret. I wish him success and am glad to find that you are still of opinion we shall yet have peace."

"We have got our friend Mr Stepney safe and sound. He had as quick a passage as if the wind had known how to make a compliment to a Commissioner of Trade. He has invited me to a bottle of burgundy, where 'tis a 1000 to one but we shall remember you." (III. 75.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Sept. 4–14. Hague.—"There was nothing done at our Congress on Wednesday, but all stands in a melancholy stillness. I hope my Lord Portland's return will put some life into us; His Lordship is expected here to-day; my Lord Villiers' coach is gone for him to Rotterdam. My Lord Villiers, or rather the Earl of Jersey (for such it seems you have made him), returned last night; I presume His Lordship has brought the Embassy His Majesty's opinion and orders as to the points yet undecided in our treaty, for though at present all seems to be broken off, it is very necessary we should know how to behave ourselves in case things come again to be treated, since Friday will soon be here. I lay the letter from the City of Bremen, which I receive with your favour of the 12th, before their Excellencies, as I do the substance of your letter of the 10th. My Lord Villiers has His Majesty's verbal directions likewise as to Count Soissons' affair.

"Sir Joseph has been laid up with a kind of gout that makes him complain very much, and eat very excessively: he intends to get out to-day, and then our Embassy may make a figure again, but it has been much lessened by Sir Joseph's sickness and Lord Villiers' absence. Your Flanders letters will have told you that the Prince of Conti went from Dunkirk the 6th. Some of our refined politicians say he is gone privately by land; it is certain this Prince has carried a good sum of money with him, and that his competitor has none left. Mons. Bosen was so impatient for the letter from the King to his master that he had not patience to wait for my Lord Villiers coming home, but obliged me to open His Lordship's packet, in which you had sent the letter enclosed. I suppose he thought it best to take the King at his word as to the naming of his master King of Poland.

Multa cadunt inter calicem supremaque labra, and one loves mightily to be called King, when one does not know how soon one may cease to be such. Pointi[s] has brought home after all but eight millions French, and above half his equipage are dead and sick.'' *Copy.* (X. 360.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

Geneva.

[1697, Sept.]—Memorial urging that the Republic of Geneva should be specifically named in the general treaty of peace, as being allied only to the Cantons of Bern and Zürich, and therefore not included among the Allies of the Thirteen Cantons. Referring to the declarations made after the Peace of Vervins in 1599 and the Agreement of Lyon in 1601, in evidence that Geneva is not to be understood as an ally of the Thirteen Cantons. Suggesting further the removal of the French Resident at Geneva, who is there for no other purpose than ''to debauch the citizens by his cabals and intrigues, to alienate them from the fealty and obedience due to their sovereign, and to establish Papacy among them, seeing that otherwise it is sufficient to have an Ambassador in Switzerland. It is only a few years since it was thought fit to keep a Resident at Geneva.'' If France will not consent to his removal, it is to be feared that other Powers may also wish to send Residents thither, and that the presence of so many ministers in one city may cause some embroilment likely to involve the Cantons in war. *French.* (XVII., No. 12.)

The Lords Ambassadors to William III.

1697, Sept. 17. [N.S.] Hague.—Enclosing a paper relating to the late Queen, and desiring to know if His Majesty approves of its form.

''The French Ambassadors will oblige themselves by an act at the signing the Treaty to procure a *pleinpouvoir* before the exchange of the ratification to treat distinctly with Your Majesty: so the preamble will stand as is usual in the ordinary forms of treaties. The business of Hudson's Bay being to be referred to commissioners, we think to propose London as the place, but since probably the French may except against it, we presume we may agree to The Hague as a neutral place, unless we have Your Majesty's directions to the contrary.

''The article which contains who shall be comprehended in the treaty is in general terms as usual. The towns of Bremen and Geneva have desired to be inserted by name. We are humbly of opinion that they may be included in the article as it stands now in general terms, except a specification were to be made of princes or states of a more considerable rank.'' *Copy.* (XVI. 92.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Sept 17. [N.S.] Hague.—"I hope we shall satisfy our Hudson's Bay gentlemen by referring their affair to commissioners. We are drawing up an article to that purpose for the French to agree to to-morrow."

"Your town of Bremen and Sir William Trumbull's of Geneva are not worth specifying in our article any otherwise than in general terms; if you have any Kingdoms or States *pour faire figure*, pray let us have them: though I think (with Sir Joseph's leave) there is nothing but compliment and show in all that, and a treaty stands firm enough that comprehends the King and his subjects

"Mons. Bosen plagues my heart out for a copy of the King's letter to his master. Pray, Sir, let Mr. Watkins send it, if you would not have me thought of Conti's party. You will have the Suabians and Franconians upon you before this letter. It is as easy to square a Circle as to content one." *Copy.*

Memorandum.—"I went from The Hague the 20th September, 1697, for England, and returned to The Hague the 28." (X. 362.)

Queen Mary of Modena's Dowry.

1697, Sept. 17. [N.S.] Loo.—Instructions under the Signet to Pembroke, Villiers, Lexington and Williamson not to give the Royal promise to make good the late Queen's maintenance and dowry as stipulated by her contract of marriage, (the said maintenance and dowry being recoverable by law), unless they find such a refusal to be a plain obstruction to the conclusion of the treaty: in which case such a promise may be made for the Queen's life, provided that the French Ambassadors will engage on behalf of their King that the said Queen Mary "shall not during the time of her enjoying such maintenance or dowry any ways act, abet or contrive any mischief or prejudice" to King William or his Government; which engagement and counter-engagement may take the form of a secret article, if the French Ambassadors so insist.

Signet. Signed, but not countersigned.

Also: Royal approval of the form of declaration concerning the same enclosed in the Ambassadors' letter of September 17. [N.S.] Dated September 18. [N.S.] *Signet. Signed, but not countersigned.* (XVII., Nos. 38, 39.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, Sept. 19. [N.S.] Loo.—"This day the Baron Saffig and Mons. Culpis waited on His Majesty by direction from the Deputies of the Empire, and the latter having amongst other things prayed His Majesty to afford his protection, as far as may be, to the Protestants of Strasbourg upon the

cession of that place to the French, and that endeavours may be used by their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors in concert with the Pensioner for the obtaining from the French the free exercise of their religion, or at least that they may be permitted to sell their goods and estates and retire peaceably into other parts of the Empire, His Majesty, being graciously inclined to grant their request, as far as may be feasible, is pleased to order their Excellencies to confer with the Pensioner on this particular.'' (III. 85.)

Treaty of Ryswick. Secret Article.

1697, [Sept.] — '' Et comme l'intention du Roy très Chrétien a tousjours esté de rendre la paix ferme et solide, Sa Majesté s'engage et promet, pour elle et ses successeurs Roys de France, de ne troubler, ni inquiéter en quelque façon que ce soit, le Roy de la Grande Bretagne dans la possession des royaumes, pays, estats, terres ou gouvernements dont Sa Majesté Britannique jouit présentement, donnant pour cet effet sa parole royale de n'assister directement ou indirectement auquuns des ennemis du dit Roy de la Grande Bretagne, de ne favoriser, en quelque manière que ce soit, les cabales, menées secrettes et rebellions qui pourroient survenir en Angleterre, et par conséquent de n'ayder, sans aucune exception ni réserve, d'armes, des munitions, vivres, vaisseaux, argent ou d'autres choses, par mer ou par terre, personne, qui que ce puisse estre, qui prétendroit troubler le dit Roy de la Grande Bretagne dans la paisible possession des dits royaumes, pays, estats, terres ou gouvernements sous quelque prétexte que ce soit ; comme aussy le Roy de la Grande Bretagne promet et s'engage de son costé de même inviolablement pour soy et ses successeurs Roys de la Grande Bretagne à l'égard du Roy très Chrétien, ses royaumes, pays, estats et terres de son obéissance, réciproquement, sans aucune exception ni réserve.''

Endorsed : Original as it came from the Pensioner. (XVII., No. 18.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

Extraits du Protocole de la Mediation.

1697, Sept. 10–20.—'' Leurs Excellences Messieurs les Ambassadeurs de Sa Majesté Britannique ont déclaré que le Roy leur Maître a promis de donner la liberté aux Irlandois pris sur des vaisseaux François, dont la liste est icy jointe.''

List of fifty names. Copy. (XVII., No. 40.)

Same date. '' Leurs Excellences Messieurs les Ambassadeurs de Sa Majesté très Chrétienne ont déclaré que, s'il se trouve que le Traitté qui a été fait et signé à Breda ne soit point en François, alors ils s'engagent qu'au lieu de celuy qu'ils ont signé à présent en François ils en fourniront un autre en Latin avant la ratification.

"Ils promettent de relâcher les Protestans François qui ont été pris sur des vaisseaux Anglois ; comme aussi de remettre en liberté les quatre ministres d'Orange."

Signed : N. Lillieroot ; *and sealed.* (XVII., No. 46.)

Queen Mary of Modena's Dowry.

1697, Sept. 20. [N.S.] Ryswick.—"Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Roy d'Angleterre ont déclaré que le Roy leur Maître a promis que la pension annuelle d'environ cinquante mille livres sterlin, ou de telle somme quelle se trouvera établie par Acte du Parlement scellé du grand sceau d'Angleterre en faveur de la Reine Marie d'Este, sera payée à l'avenir conformément au dit acte, et qu'ils consentent que Mons. L'Ambassadeur Médiateur le fasse insérer dans son protocole, et en donne copie authentique à Messieurs les Ambassadeurs de France, en présence desquels, ainsi que de Messieurs les Ambassadeurs des Etats Généraux, la dite déclaration a ét faite." (XVII., No. 45.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

1697, Sept. 20. [N.S.] Ryswick. — "Minutes of the treaty (original) as signed by their Excellencies :" *and* "the Separate Article also signed by their Excellencies" at the same time. *Latin. Seals and signatures of the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Villiers, and Sir Joseph Williamson.*

Also : Duplicate of the treaty (original). *Latin. Seals and signatures of the same persons, and of N. A. Harlay-Bonneuil, Verjus de Crécy, F. de Callières, N. Lillieroot.* (XVII., Nos. 47, 48, 49.)

The Lords Ambassadors to William III.

1697, Sept. 20–21. [N.S.] "At 3 in the morning." Ryswick.—"Till we can give Your Majesty a more particular account, we presume that we ought not to defer one moment the letting Your Majesty know that we have signed the Treaty with the French. The Spaniards and Dutch have done the same. We wish it may be long and successful to Your Majesty." *Copy.*

Similar letters from the Same to Prince Vaudemont (*French*), and the Lords Justices of England. *Copies.* (XVI. 100-102.)

Treaty of Ryswick.

1697, Sept. 21. [N.S.] Loo.—Declaration by William III of his approval of the treaty signed by the English and French plenipotentiaries on the previous day, and of his intention that it shall be duly ratified under the Great Seal, and to use his good offices to procure the ratification of the treaties with France signed by the Ambassadors of the King of Spain and of the States General, on condition that the

King of France be pleased to withdraw his troops from the territories of the King of Spain, whether in Flanders or in Catalonia. *French. Signet. Signed, but not countersigned. Copy.*

Also : first draft of the above "as drawn up by the French secretary, and corrected by the Pensioner." *French.*

Also : second draft of the same, with further corrections in the Pensioner's hand. *French.* (XVII., No. 44.)

JAMES VERNON to the LORDS AMBASSADORS.

1697, Sept. 16 [–26]. Whitehall.—"The Lords Justices command me to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellencies' letter sent by Mr. Prior, and to acquaint you in their names with the entire satisfaction they receive in the happy conclusion of the Treaty of Peace by Your Excellencies successful endeavours.

"Their Excellencies have found it necessary immediately to dispatch Mr. Prior, that you may know their thoughts, that it will not only be a gaining of time if the form of the ratification be proposed and engrossed there, and then be sent hither ready signed by His Majesty with his warrant for affixing the Great Seal thereto, but Your Excellencies will likewise be the best judges what that form should be and in what terms drawn up, such as may be most proper to the occasion, and prevent any exceptions that might otherwise be taken, which their Excellencies have likewise laid before His Majesty." (III. 81.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Sept. 17 [–27]. Whitehall.—I am by command of Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer to acquaint you that "this morning there came a letter to our Board from Mr. Vernon, signifying the pleasure of the Lords Justices that you should have two hundred guineas for the glad tidings of peace which you brought, and our Lords to shew they would not be behindhand with their Excellencies upon such an extraordinary occasion have ordered it to be paid out of secret service money, which you will receive without fees. The cash is a little low, but I believe I shall have it before you can draw any bill on me. I hope this will find you well in Holland." (VIII. 251.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, Oct. 1. [N.S.] Hague.—"I arrived in Holland on Saturday, and had yesterday the honour of your letter of the 17th. At my coming hither I found that according (as I think) to Mr. Blathwayt's method, there was a copy of the treaty sent by the packet that was to carry the letters of this day sennight together with a warrant, that it might be engrossed and have the Broad Seal set to it on your side,

and so be returned for the King to sign it here. The duplicate of it is likewise sent by the royal transport, so that I hope for all these contrary winds one or t'other has reached you some time before you receive this letter. I known ot if Mr. Blathwayt has sent a form of ratification with the treaty. I presume he has not. Their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors think the easiest and simplest form the best: if I might add my sentiments I would have that which we used at Breda looked for again, or at least some other which England has already had in treaty with France. I need not put Mr. Ellis in mind the seal must be in a silver box. In some discourse I had the honour to hold with you at Whitehall I told you that the French drew up their part of the treaty (*i.e.*, that instrument or part which they retain signed by both parties) in French, as the part or instrument which we retain signed by both parties is in Latin: they allege custom for this, and give us for precedent, that the same thing was done at Breda; they have declared, however, to the Mediator that if it be not found to be as they aver, they will withdraw the instrument already signed, and furnish another in Latin before the ratification. Sir Joseph Williamson cannot resolve our doubt; I wish any deputy he has left in his Paper Office may be able to do it, and must beg you to give order that we may have light into this business, if possible: which one would think one should not want in a country so politic and knowing as England, in a treaty so very modern as this instanced in. I find we have done nothing more in these Provinces towards the demonstration of a peace than the signing it; there has been no other publication of it than what the *Gazettes* make, and no other joy than that which everybody has in his own family and at his own charge. I believe His Majesty will write to the Lords Regents what is to be done on this occasion; and when and where anything passes here relating to that matter I shall (as my duty requires) most humbly advise you of it. I have sent Dubreuil your present to rejoice his poor spirits, and retain him on our side. I shall see the man in a day or two. Be pleased in the next you honour me with to specify to me the pension you intend him, for in the mass of things I then had confused in my head I do not know if I rightly understood you, so I shall only assure him of your kindness to him without naming the particular sum." *Copy.* (X. 369.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER.

1697, Oct. 1. [N.S.] Hague.—"Nothing should have made me neglect telling Your Excellency sooner that my Lords Ambassadors signed a treaty with France the 20th, but my having been sent from hence immediately to the Lords Justices of England, and being hurried thence in twenty-four hours' time to look to the ratification being sent over for the Broad Seal; so that in less than eight days I was at

London and back again here. The Emperor and Empire have till the 5th of November allowed them to come in, and I think are resolved so to do whatever mien they may make to the contrary. Mr. Vernon (as I have desired him) will send Your Excellency a copy of the treaty as by the Lords Justices' order it is to be printed in England; and God be thanked for the conjuncture that lets us see a peace again after the hardships of a war of such duration." *Copy.* (X. 373.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Oct. 3. [N.S.] Hague.—"I am commanded to inform you that in the article of our treaty, of which I send you enclosed the copy, the Brandenbourg Ambassadors think that *Celsissimum Electorem* is not as much as England has sometime given to their master; they desire His Majesty would consent to have *Serenissimum* inserted in the instrument which is to be ratified, and that a warrant may be despatched into England for that purpose; this, Sir, I am to advise you of, though (to say the truth on't) we do not yet know if the French would consent to the change, though His Majesty did agree to it. As to the thing itself you see, Sir, that the Latin answers to *Son Altesse Electorale* of the French, from whence it was translated, and so it stands in the Dutch treaty; and you know, Sir, better than any man how we give them *Serenissimus, i.e.*, in a direction or title joined to *Princeps;* but in the body of an article, where the Elector is named in the third person, I do not see that the epithet is of such weight, and if it had been said plainly *Electorem*, provided one knew of whom it was spoken, it is (in my poor opinion) sufficient: thus we say *Imperatorem* in the Separate Article and *Regem Christianissimum*, but this is only my sentiments and I leave (as I ought to do) the decision of the matter to my superiors. I wish the gentlemen were satisfied since one word can make them so."

"God send we may get the ratification over before the twenty days be elapsed." *Copy.* (X. 374.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Oct. 3. [N.S.] Loo.—"It being agreed by the 10th Article of the treaty between us and the French that the peace is to take place at sea within the Channel after twelve days from the signing and publication thereof, as elsewhere according to the several terms prescribed, which twelve days being now expired from the time of signing the said treaty, but it yet remaining doubtful what is meant by the publication of it, His Majesty commands me to mention the same to their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors, that the meaning of those words may be explained as far as may be, and if it be necessary by conference with the French Ambassadors, and that their Excellencies do thereupon give

notice of the agreed sense of this Article in England and elsewhere to prevent the great contests and inconveniences that may happen upon the doubtfulness of it." (III. 90.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Oct. 5. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lords Ambassadors, in a conference this afternoon at Ryswick with those of France, agreed that the time for the peace taking place at sea within the Channel, etc., should be understood to begin twelve days after the 20th past, *i.e.*, after the signing the treaty, and the same to be understood in proportion for the other seas more distant. Mons. Harlay alleged, that since this explication of the words was agreed on this day only, which is the 15th after the signing, if anything should have happened to be taken since the expiration of the twelve days, (*i.e.*, from Thursday morning till now), it should be supposed to be taken in war: their Excellencies answered, however, that in case anything should be taken from thence to this day, (*i.e.*, in these two days) they expected that means might be used to obtain its restitution, though they did not much insist upon it, since this difference cannot be very considerable, and very probably is not any.

"Their Excellencies likewise agreed with the French that the prisoners, which were on both sides to have their liberty, should be immediately released without any further notification to be expected or given from either party.

"The French Embassy have promised to signify these two things to their Court this night. Their Excellencies will likewise let the Lords Justices know on Tuesday what they have done hereupon. All orders upon these points being to come immediately from the King, their Excellencies desire you to lay the substance of this letter before His Majesty, that from his pleasure sent into England directions may be given to the Admiralty, and whatever courts or jurisdiction may be concerned in these matters.

"You see, Sir, by the enclosed resolution which the States took on Thursday, what they do on this occasion in their marine affairs.

"The Muscovite Embassy had their audience this morning; they and their train were very magnificent; the Czar was there *incognito.*" *Copy.* (X. 378.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, October 5. [N.S.] Loo.—"His Majesty is pleased to take notice that the ratification of the . . . treaty which is expected from England may not with any probability arrive here early enough to be exchanged within the time prescribed by the treaty, for which reason His Majesty, being desirous to obviate as much as may be any objections that may be made by the French, or inconvenience that may happen by the want of a ratification, does think fit that an

instrument of ratification be prepared on this side and passed under the signet instead of the Great Seal of England; which the French Ambassadors may be satisfied with at least until the arrival of the other; whereupon His Majesty is pleased to order their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors forthwith to prepare such a form of ratification as their Excellencies shall judge most suitable and fitting, with this difference, that instead of the words *Magno Angliae sigillo communiri jussimus*, or words to that effect, this expression be used, *Sigillo nostro communiri jussimus*; which seal or signet has upon many occasions been taken as sufficient in ratifications, and, as it is hoped, may well enough answer the 17th Article of the said treaty in consideration of His Majesty being on this side, and the tempestuous weather that has happened since the time of signing."

Postscript.—"There is no doubt but the Elector of Brandenburg has a right to the title of *Serenissimus* from the King in all Latin instruments." (III. 92.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, Oct. 6. [N.S.] Loo.—"We have certain news from Newfoundland that Mons. de Nesmond with a squadron of near twenty men-of-war was not only arrived there, but gone with his ships to the harbour of St. John's, where we have at present eight men-of-war under the command of Captain Norris, besides Colonel Gibson's regiment of foot: and we do further understand (as it is very probable) that the French, not being able to force their entrance into the port, and being informed that our fleet and land men would be soon in want of provisions, were resolved to lie before the place so long as to starve our people by intercepting the convoy of provisions that they hear is going thither. This is the news we have from these parts, and the situation of Newfoundland being such that it may most properly be comprehended within the second term of the 10th Article, viz., of the peace taking place there within six weeks, notwithstanding which it may perhaps so fall out that after the expiration of that term Mons. de Nesmond may not be acquainted with the treaty, His Majesty judges that the French Ambassadors cannot well refuse giving their Excellencies an Act or Declaration under their hands, such a one as passed at the Treaty of Breda, or any other to the same effect, certifying the conclusion of the Peace between the King and His most Christian Majesty, with the commencement of it within the several distances agreed on by the 10th Article of the late treaty, which Act or Declaration His Majesty does think fit their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors should desire from those of France, and upon obtaining the same do send it with a duplicate into England, where orders will be given for one or more vessels, which may likewise have provisions on board, to be dispatched

immediately to Newfoundland, not only thereby to oblige Mons. Nesmond to desist from his enterprise, in case he should happen to stay so long upon that coast, but to carry the necessary provisions to our fleet and land forces, of which the latter will most certainly be in very great want, though the former should be come away. This being a matter of so very great importance to us and no more than we may reasonably demand of the French, though indeed it be not likely that Mons. Nesmond will stay so long in Newfoundland by reason of the bad weather and fogs that are usual there towards the winter, His Majesty would have their Excellencies lose no time in proceeding therein according to the directions above mentioned, it being not requisite that any further mention be made to the French Ambassadors of the occasion of our asking this attestation from them, than that it is in order to the due notifying of the peace and for preventing of further hostilities in those parts.

"I am likewise obliged to you for the Resolution of the States relating to their Marine affairs; which being very advantageous to them, and His Majesty having been pleased to tell me that the French were equally disposed to gratify us in the same particulars, there is no doubt but their Excellencies will be no less successful in our own matters of the same nature, since the obtaining of passes for all ships, or at least for such as are going out in any voyage beyond the Cape St. Vincent, will be very useful to us, as His Majesty will be ready to grant the like to the French upon their request."

Postscript.—"It would be much better if a pass or passes could be obtained from the French for the ship or ships that shall carry the news of the Peace to Newfoundland and to other parts of America.

"I have had fresh solicitations from England in reference to the settling a trade with Muscovy." *Signed.* (III. 95.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, Oct. 7. [N.S.] Loo.—"His Majesty has given me directions to signify his pleasure to the Lords Justices in England for the release of all prisoners, which are on that side to have their liberty as ours in France are to be dealt with in the same manner according to the agreement made with their Ambassadors. There remains nothing unanswered from hence."

Postscript.—"His Majesty would be glad that the Elector of Brandebourg were gratified in the title he desires." *Signed. Copy.* (III. 96.)

1697, Sept. 28 [–Oct 8.] Loo.—Instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Ryswick and the Separate Article. *Latin. Signet. Sign manual. Countersigned* by Blathwayt.

[Full text printed in *Actes et Mémoires des négociations de la Paix de Ryswick*, 2nd edn. vol. iii., pp. 176–189.] (XVII., Nos. 50-51.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1697, Sept. 28 [–Oct. 8]. Whitehall. — "Mr Secretary, being in the country, directs me to acknowledge yours to him of 1 Oct. [N.S.], wherein you give good advice concerning the ratification of the treaty of peace in the same form as that of Breda was, if the copy had come in any convenient time to our hands: but having not received it till Sunday morning last, all we could do was to despatch it *de bene esse*, as soon as possible. The preamble is as simple, I think, as anything of that kind could be, and as little liable to exceptions; but for precedents, there was no time to consult them, the Lords Justices pressing the despatch of the two instruments, that they might be put under the Great Seal and sent away on Sunday night, as they were by ten at night, one to Harwich, the other to the Downs, where two frigates were ordered to transport the messengers; which, I fear, they have not been able to do, the wind having been for several days at N.E.

"My Lord Ambassador Villiers is likewise pleased to put us in mind of a thing which was omitted on the foresaid consideration of saving all the time that possibly might be; that is, that the powers on both sides should be annexed to the ratification: they were not to be inserted in the ratification, and therefore it was looked upon to be essentially complete without them, and that they might be added after the exchange of the ratifications was made at Ryswick; besides that we have no authentic copy of the French powers. The signatures, whereof His Excellency has also been pleased to send us a plainer copy than that in the treaty, are exactly observed in the ratification as they are in the copy of the treaty; but I take notice that both there and in his Excellency's copy the French Ambassadors sign in the first place, and the King's Ambassadors in the next, etc., whereas I should have thought these should have signed first the King's part, which was to be left with the French.

"I wish my Lord Ambassador Villiers be not misinformed as to the annexing the *pleinpouvoir* of the French Ambassadors to our treaty, that, upon second thoughts, seeming to me to be most proper to be done in their treaty." (III. 86.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697, Sept. 28 [–Oct. 8]. Whitehall.—"We hear nothing yet of any orders for recalling our letters of marque. If the ratifications were exchanged, a proclamation ought to issue of course, or otherwise it will not be done till the King's pleasure is signified.

"I have been enquiring in relation to what you writ in your former letter about treaties being in French or Latin. As to what was done at Breda, I believe you will know it soonest from some in Holland who were at that treaty. I meet with

nobody here who knows anything of it. If you will go to older times, our historiographer Thomas Rymer hath rummaged some of his records of ancient times, for he hath not yet looked into those of the memory of man, and he sends you an extract of all sorts when they treated in Latin, when in French, and when in both languages. An article of a truce in Henry V.'s reign (for those were the treaties in that time) is transcribed at length; there you will find it agreed that each party agreed to sign the treaty both in Latin and French, and this, he says, was frequently repeated afterwards.

"I have in my keeping the original of the American Treaty between England and France which was made in November. 1686, the Ambassador Barillon being plenipotentiary for the French, and the Chancellor Jeffrys, Lord Sunderland, Lord Middleton and Lord Godolphin plenipotentiaries for St. James'. That treaty, I assure you, was drawn up in Latin, and both parties signed and sealed the same instrument." (III. 87.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, [Oct.] 8. [N.S.] Hague.—"In conformity to yours of the 5th and 6th, which I have laid before my Lords Ambassadors, I send you an instrument of ratification as their Excellencies have agreed to have it formed together with the Treaty and their powers: the whole fairly transcribed in order to it being signed by His Majesty and sealed with the Signet, to be exchanged with the ratification of the French in case the other instrument from England may not arrive in time.

"I have left the place and day of signing to be filled up by you or to be returned (in case you would have the whole written in one hand) with a word of instruction of *palatium*, or *aula*, or what you will call Loo or the place where His Majesty may be when he signs.

"Their Excellencies think that the placing their *pleinpouvoir* after the Treaty is as it ought to be, since it is the Treaty which His Majesty ratifies, and the *pleinpouvoirs* were sufficiently ratified when they passed the Great Seal. The French *pleinpouvoirs* are not added, since the doing so would make this instrument differ from that which we expect from England: they may be added to either instrument afterwards if it shall be judged necessary. In the meantime we have the original of the French *pleinpouvoirs*, which seem to make the inserting a copy but superfluous. You will observe that in the 14th Article I have left a space for *Celsissimum* or *Serenissimum*, your letter not determining that point with the validity of an order; if, therefore, as you seem to intimate in your postscript, His Majesty consents to the supplying that blank with *Serenissimum*, their Excellencies desire you would send them a warrant by which they may be enabled to alter the word in the instrument which will come signed and sealed with the Great Seal: for it would

but increase the difficulty if *Serenissimum* should be seen in an instrument which is to be withdrawn for another in which *Celsissimum* would appear after; and their Excellencies cannot make the alteration without they are authorized so to do by such a warrant. All this is to be understood in case the French will consent to the alteration.

"To-morrow my Lords Ambassadors will confer with those of France about the Act or Declaration, which we would have of what is agreed as to the peace taking place in the different parts of the world, and accordingly I shall be able, in my next, to give you an account of it. The French will easily know what we mean, since the circumstances which as well we as Nesmond are in are so far from being a secret that they are in this day's *Gazette*.

"Their Excellencies will likewise concert the matter of passports with the French. In this they have already declared that they will act with us conformably to what they do with the Dutch: their Excellencies will therefore consult likewise on this affair with the ministers of the States; though their Excellencies, I am commanded to inform you, will not ask for passports for particular ships to go out without His Majesty's order for their so doing signified by the Secretary of State or by yourself, their Excellencies not presuming to judge if it be necessary or reasonable that such ships should have passports. As to what regards a passport for Sir Lambert Blackwell [envoy to Tuscany], their Excellencies think he cannot have a better pass to go through France (the peace being made) than the commission with which His Majesty honours him: they will, however, mention his going to the French Ambassador to-morrow: the like may be said as to passes for any particular person; the King's subjects having liberty to go, come or stay in the French dominions by virtue of the 5th Article." *Copy.* (X. 380.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Oct. 9. [N.S.] Hague.—"The Mediator asked the French this morning in the name of my Lords Ambassadors for such an Act or Declaration as you mentioned in yours of the 5th [*sic*], but the French alleged that they could not consent to the giving it; that they had written to the King their Master of the agreement made last Saturday as to the times of the peace taking place, and did no way doubt of his being willing to confirm it by his approbation; but they thought they could not found a public Act upon it till they were assured that he had actually consented to it.

"They have agreed to the giving general passes in blank to be filled up by us for what part of the world and in what number we think proper: accordingly they have written to Court for such passports. These passports, Sir, does in a manner prevent our insisting upon this Act, and even renders

our having it useless. They desire reciprocally like blank passes from His Majesty, in order to which, if you please to draw up the form of a pass such as His Majesty shall approve, and think it proper that a certain number of them should be printed here, I shall take care that it be done, and shall return them back for His Majesty's signing, that we may have them ready on our side as the French will have them on theirs.

"They have consented that we may (as an act of own) insert *Serenissimus* in the Brandenbourg Article of the instrument to be ratified, and since you let their Excellencies know by yours to me of the 7th (which I had the honour to receive this morning) that His Majesty will gratify the Elector in this point, it only remains that you send a warrant to enable our making this alteration in the instrument which we expect from England. I begin to despair of its coming in time, unless they have taken care on the other side to send it to some port of Flanders. The Mediator told their Excellencies this morning that the French had made some difficulty of receiving our *pleinpouvoirs*, since the King of England does therein style himself King of France. The Mediator told them that the *pleinpouvoirs* being only added after the ratification, it was properly an act of the King to his own subjects, and was no part of the Treaty: with this they are or seem to be satisfied; but their raising this objection, Sir, makes me believe that they will not consent to His Majesty styling himself King of France in the form of the ratification at the beginning, unless there be a very late and clear precedent for it, according to which you will be pleased to regulate the ratification which you sent us. Their Excellencies have agreed with the French on an Act for the freedom of fishery of all kinds and in all places, as the Dutch had likewise done.

"As soon as this Act is signed, a copy of it shall be sent into England and to yourself. The French have agreed to give Sir Lambert Blackwell a recommendation to the first French frontier town, thinking a passport unnecessary, and not doubting but that the King of England's pass is sufficient." *Copy.* (X. 385–8.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Oct. 10. [N.S.] Hague.—"I have this evening received the ratification, and laid your letter of yesterday before their Excellencies, who will according to His Majesty's orders confer with the Pensioner and ministers of the States, and proceed conjointly with them in what regards France's ratifying with Spain before their Excellencies proceed to exchange our ratification. Their Excellencies insert *Serenissimum*, and are satisfied with the way you propose of doing the like in the instrument which is to come from England.

"I can now explain what I wrote to you last night about passports which the French would give. A. is, you see, Sir,

for ships to go and return to and from any place whatever ; B. to go and come to and from France only. The French have positively promised passports according to the form B., and they think they shall have the more general ones according to the form A. Their Excellencies think it necessary that we should be provided with passes to exchange with the French according to the form which they may receive. You will be pleased, therefore, to send us two forms parallel to these (as His Majesty may approve), which shall be printed here, and their Excellencies will return that form which shall be made use of, in order to its being signed by His Majesty.'' *Copy.* (X. 389.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Oct. 1–11. Hague.—'' We are just now returned from Ryswick. The French had the ratification ready engrossed, sealed with their Great Seal in a silver box in ample form, as we had ours signed and sealed with the Signet in the manner you sent it. These instruments are by consent of each party left in the Mediator's hand till we receive ours under the Great Seal from England to exchange with them, and the ratification is reckoned from this day to be good and valid. The French had also the Separate Article engrossed and ratified and sealed in as ample form as the Treaty : they expect we should have the like to exchange with them, though their Excellencies at the signing of the Treaty were given to understand that this article was not to be ratified. Their Excellencies desired, therefore, that you would be pleased to get this article ratified under the Signet as the Treaty was, and that you will despatch for England a copy of it with a warrant that it should be ratified under the Great Seal. Their Excellencies desire that under the Signet to be returned as soon as possible. Both the Treaty and the Separate Article of the French bore date the same day : I know not if you will think it necessary that ours should do so likewise. Before the ratifications were put into the Mediator's hands, the French produced the ratification which they will make with Spain, and they declared in the presence of the Mediator, the English and Dutch Embassy, that they were ready to exchange it with the Spaniards as soon as theirs came from Madrid, with which the Spaniards declared that they were satisfied.''

Postscript.—'' The French received our ratification without making any exception to His Majesty's title as King of France. I this moment see the messenger, who tells me the ratification is come from England and forwarded to you.'' (X. 391.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Oct. 11. [N.S.] Loo.—With regard to the difficulty likely to arise out of the King's title, His Majesty has

decided that search must be made for authentic precedents, of which the most recent shall settle the matter. Enquiry will therefore be made in all the offices in England. "The French themselves can more readily help us by a sight of the originals which they have in their hands, there having been ratifications of treaties delivered to them as well during the reign of the late King James as of King Charles II.

"There is indeed no dependence upon their printed books; but if you please to examine the last *Recueil des Traités de Paix*, printed by Leers at Rotterdam, *pages* 4, 12 and 26, *Volume* the 5th, you will find the title of France there omitted in our instruments; from whence you will further infer that the *pleinpouvoirs* and the instrument of ratification ought to agree as being both delivered over to the French, as indeed the full powers delivered to them by the Mediator and the form of the ratification sent by their Excellencies do, so that it could not be expected any alteration should be made here." *Signed.* (III. 100.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, Oct. 2–12, "near ten at night." Dieren.—"We have this instant received the ratification of the Peace from England. His Majesty has immediately signed it, and commanded me to send it, as I now do, to their Excellencies the Lords Ambassadors, that it may be exchanged as intended." *Signed.* (III. 88.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Oct. 4–14. Hague.—"I told you in my last that I thought the difficulty which we apprehended as to His Majesty's styling himself King of France was over, the French having without any objection collationed and put into the Mediator's hand the Treaty with the ratification as you sent it signed by the Signet: but on Saturday when they understood that the instrument under the Great Seal was come from England, they informed my Lords Ambassadors by the Mediator, that they excepted against the style of *Rex Franciæ*, and after some arguing upon that point they came to this, that they would be satisfied, provided we declared that we would change it, if it be found otherwise in the ratification of the Treaty of Breda, and in other treaties made since. Their Excellencies are very willing to oblige themselves to stand by the example of Breda, as they have done likewise in the point of language, but do not think it proper to consent to such loose terms as *and treaties made since* import, for that they do not know but that the style of *Rex Franciæ* may possibly have been omitted in those negligent times when France had but too much influence upon our negotiations. The treaty made with France in 1672 against Holland is in French, and probably the ratification may be

in the same language, and if so, the King may be mentioned *Roy de la Grande Bretagne* with an *et cetera;* nor are we sure that either in the treaty of commerce in 1677 or that of neutrality for America in 1686 the style may have been carefully observed, we only having the body of these treaties by us, but neither the preambles nor ratification, nor do their Excellencies know what secret treaty King James may have made with France, or with what omission, novelty, or irregularity of style: these are the considerations which oblige my Lords Ambassadors to rely upon the precedent of Breda, rather than consent to the clause *and of any treaties made since,* which renders the thing more vague and uncertain. The Mediator has been with the French to-day to try to bring them off, but as yet without any success, and in this state the matter is at present. Their Excellencies have resolved to desire a conference with the French in the presence of the Ambassadors of the States and of the Mediator, of which in my next I shall send you the result."

"On Sunday night we had the ratification under the Great Seal, and this morning my Lord Portland did me the honour to give me yours of the 13th with the Separate Article."

Postscript.—"The business of passports is, you see, Sir, at a stand till we can get over this rub." *Copy.* (X. 394.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1697, Oct. 15. [N.S.] Dieren.—Enclosing instructions to their Excellencies, by which "you see the medium that is taken between what the French offered and what their Excellencies would accept of. I hope it will happen to be all one, and that a speedy end will be put to the occasion of such difficulties.

"Pray give notice, when the ratifications are exchanged, to all our ministers abroad, as the knowledge of it may be of use to them."

[The instructions referred to are printed in Prior's *History of his own Time* (ed. 1740), vol. i., pp. 35–7.] (III. 105.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Oct. 16. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lords Ambassadors have this morning regulated the difficulty about the title of *Rex Franciæ* with those of France in what manner you see by the Act which I send you enclosed. . . . . According to this agreement I went as I was commanded by their Excellencies to collation our Treaty with that under the French Great Seal, with the Secretary of the Mediation and one of the French Embassy. Theirs was right in all except that in the 8th Article concerning Hudson's Bay there was a blank left as well for the place, *in Urbe Londini,* as for the time of meeting, *trium mensium,* as the time of

their finishing *sex mensium*, for which reason I did not exchange it to-night, but left the instrument in the hand of the Mediator, and took back that under the Signet, as that of the French is likewise left, the Secretary returning to have his superior orders, which he is to bring back to-morrow morning. The thing being already agreed between my Lords Ambassadors and the French, I presume most certainly there will be no more difficulty in it.

"I shall obey your order in giving notice to our ministers abroad when the ratifications are exchanged. The French desire passports for the ships of which the enclosed contains the names, and are willing to give us passports for as many until their Excellencies and the French Ambassadors agree about giving passports in general.

"The publication of the Peace will be here and at Paris on Monday next. We are under no obligation as to the time, but it is to be supposed that it should be done as soon as may conveniently. His Majesty will be pleased to write hereupon to the Lords Justices.

"I have told you that my Lords Ambassadors had agreed that the time for hostilities ceasing was twelve days after the signing, that is, after the 20th past, and so on, for places further distant, as specified in the 10th Article. The French Ambassadors have notice from Paris that the King their Master has approved of this agreement, and we expect an authentic Act of this from them before Friday." *Copy.* (X. 401.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Albemarle.

1697, Oct. 17 [N.S.] Hague.—"Je viens de faire l'échange de nos ratifications ; j'aurois souhaité de mettre moimême celle de la France aux pieds de Sa Majesté, mais mes supérieurs en ont autrement ordonné. Je suis heureux si le tout s'est fait à la satisfaction et au plaisir de notre auguste Maître, car les deux choses au monde que j'ambitionne le plus, ce sont de pouvoir toujours travailler pour la gloire du Roi et de témoigner à Milord d'Albemarle que je lui serai toute ma vie redevable des faveurs dont il a eu la bonté de m'honorer." *Copy.* (X. 406.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1697, Oct. 22. [N.S.] Hague.—The messenger Mr. Thomas came hither this afternoon with the Separate Article ratified, and went forward with it immediately for Loo. I hope you have received mine of the 8–18th, by which I told you I had exchanged the ratification of the Treaty. Mr. Blathwayt tells me in a letter of the 17th that he has written His Majesty's pleasure hereupon to their Excellencies the Lords Justices as to its being proclaimed and published. Sir William Trumbull likewise receives by mine of the 18th the original Act by which the Peace takes place immediately

from the day of the signing, which you will judge necessary to be made public. It was not made to prevent the harm that might otherwise arise from the omission of the second date in the 10th Article of the copy I brought over, viz. : *six weeks from the British and Northern Seas to the Cape of St. Vincent* ; but it will, however, occasionally do so, for before you had this Act the word *publication* was so ambiguous that it was generally thought to be equal to or to come after the ratification, and I believe few ventured to understand it as their Excellencies my Lords Ambassadors have agreed it by this Act, and now it is so agreed the time is well-nigh elapsed ; but I do not plead this to excuse the oversight : the copy was indeed taken at three in the morning, and I hurried away with it before it was duly revised and compared, though I always understood that you would print the treaty from the copy which should come authentically from Loo, and I meant this hasty draught for the curiosity only of my Lords and myself. I am glad the last edition has corrected this error ; nobody can be more concerned at its having happened than myself.

"The French expect daily general passports from their Court which we shall be ready to exchange with them ; and I shall send you to be distributed to ships as you may judge necessary the Act we think sufficient for all ships in these seas where the Peace is or will very soon be known." *Copy.* (X. 412.)

Matthew Prior to William Blathwayt.

1697, Oct. 13–23. Hague.—"When my Lords give the French the passports, they will require an equal number for us ; I shall then see what can be done for the Turkey merchants which Mr. Dean Smith solicits for. The French Ambassadors say their general passports are not yet come : till we see exactly the form of them, my Lord Ambassador Williamson is of opinion we cannot send you the form of those we beg His Majesty to sign. Others are not of Sir Joseph's opinion, but those that will have a maypole [*sic*] shall have one. We shall trouble you once more about this matter of passports, and then I hope we have done." *Copy.* (X. 415.)

Memoir delivered by Matthew Prior to the Secretary of the Russian Ambassadors.

1697, Oct. 24. [N.S.] Hague.—Referring to the commercial privileges granted in the time of Queen Elizabeth by His Czarish Majesty John Basiliwich and continued by successive Czars to the English nation for more than a century, *donec malignitas temporum et infausta series belli impedivit Anglos quominus fruerentur foederibus istis antiquis ;* which privileges, now that amity is restored between the

two nations, it is hoped may be renewed and extended so as to authorize the importation of tobacco into the Czar's dominions. *Latin. Draft.* (XVII., No. 36.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [JAMES] VERNON.

1697, Oct. 25. [N.S.] Hague.—"I hope you have mine of the 13th to take off the fright you were in from that of the post before. So you have seen that we have gotten off gloriously, and nothing more to do than to thank my Lord Chancellor's officers for their trouble, and desire them to put their records up against the next peace. The French passports are not yet come: the exchanging them with ours is all, I think, we have now left to do. The Germans are coming to, because they must: the only difficulty is about the Palatinate, part of which, to which *Madame* lays claim, the French would have sequestered till the right of possession be determined by arbitration. May be, this is not so very unreasonable, but as yet the Germans will not yield to it: a day or two more will bring them a decision. You know their method; they let slip all help that human prudence can dictate, and then lay their acting foolishly upon necessity. I told you in my last the ratification of the Separate Article was gone to Loo; we have it not back again as yet, but shall have it, I believe, to-morrow." *Copy.* (X. 416.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Oct. 26. [N.S.] Hague.—"I am commanded by my Lords Ambassadors to tell you that the Duchess of Nemours would have entered her protest against His Majesty being possessed of the Principality of Orange, but the Mediator refused to receive it, the Peace being signed and ratified. The Separate Article is long coming. Mr. Swinfurt gives you an account how far we are got in our Muscovite negotiation; so you are no further troubled with me at present than to direct me in this form of the passport." *Copy.* (X. 419.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Oct. 18–28. Loo.—"This is occasioned by a very great emergency that has surprised the King this morning. M. le Baron Goertz, plenipotentiary of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, has acquainted His Majesty with the unreasonable demands of the French relating to the fortress of Rhinfels, the particulars whereof will be explained by him to their Excellencies our Ambassadors, whom His Majesty commands to use their utmost endeavours by the most proper ways and means to bring the French to desist from this pretension, which is not only injurious to the said Landgrave but highly prejudicial to the safety of Germany and to the common cause." *Signed.* (III 107.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, Oct. 29. [N.S.], 10 at night. Ryswick House.—"My Masters being still within at conference, I can tell you no more of what the French are doing with our Germans than that, I hear, things are drawing towards a conclusion, except the business of Rinfeildt [*sic*], which unluckily intervenes, be of consequence enough to hinder the signing to-morrow. Their Excellencies have His Majesty's order to interpose as much as possible in the Landgrave's behalf, but the secret of the business is that the Imperialists are cold enough as to what regards this Prince's interest, and would risk this place's falling one day into the French hands, provided they could establish it at present in a Papist's. Mons. de Vehlen, Ambassador from the Elector Palatine, has had ability enough to compose his master's differences with the French ministers underhand, whilst we were all engaged above board in sustaining that Prince's interest: but, God be thanked, we have done our own business, and are much more easily satisfied with this minister's negotiation in the dark a month after the peace than with La Tour's a year before it. I hope by next post to give you some satisfactory account of our proceedings, Thursday being the last day for the Germans coming in, which, if they have any sense, they will not let slip.

"The Separate Article under the Broad Seal came from Loo last night; I shall exchange it to-morrow for that of the French, which lies in the Mediator's hands.

"I shall likewise have French passports by next post, ours being come from Loo, at least twenty of them, with which we may begin to exchange.

"You will pardon the incoherence of a letter written in the middle of a crowd." *Copy.* (X. 421.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, [Oct.] 30. [N.S.] Hague.—"I am just now commanded to mention to you a point of great consequence: the French in all the reunions they give back will have it stipulated that the Roman Catholic religion shall be kept and preserved as in the state it now is, and that if any prince shall endeavour to change or innovate in this point, he shall not have a benefit of the Peace now to be signed. Their Excellencies are this moment going to Ryswick to interpose as much as possible in this affair."

Postscript.—"I am to add a word to my letter on my own behalf, and I hope you will think I request a thing reasonable. By a letter from you to the Pensioner in His Majesty's name, dated the 16th of June, 1694, I was recommended to the States as His Majesty's Secretary, and have ever since been used by them with all kindness: the favour I desire of you is to move His Majesty that you may by his order write a like letter to the Pensioner or President of the week, when

His Majesty pleases that I should leave Holland, that I may have occasion to take my leave and thank them for their favours; which is but just to go off as I came on, and would let the States see I was not wholly forgotten by my Master, and entitle me to a medal." *Copy.* (X. 425.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

1697, Oct. 31. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lord Jersey has just now the news of the Peace being signed this morning between one and two by the Emperor and all the Catholic Princes of the Empire: the Protestants refused to sign, but have time allowed them to come in till the exchange of the ratification, which is six weeks. The French declare that they shall all enjoy the benefit of the Peace, but those that shall not sign in the time prescribed shall be looked upon as enemies to France, and that Brandenbourg shall not have the benefit of the inclusive Article in our Treaty.

"Some time before the Peace was signed the Mediator withdrew leaving a Declaration in the hand of their [*sic*] secretary, that there being some things in this Peace contrary to that of Westphalia, whereof his master was a guarantee, they could not consent to the signing it. This Declaration was delivered in as soon as the parties had signed." *Copy.* (X. 428.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, Nov. 1. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lord Jersey tells me he writes to you, so you will excuse my sending any politics, though this post affords matter enough of observation. Our good friends, the Emperor and the Elector Palatine, could no longer conceal their concern for Catholicism, and seven hundred Protestant churches are sacrificed as a victim to a peace ill made for Germany. The Protestant Princes will come in within the time prescribed, but it will be a long time before they forget the proceedings that obliged them to it, *et adhuc mea vulnera restant*, whenever they shall come to speak in a free Diet, or have power to show the House of Austria their resentment. I am got insensibly into my reflections, though I promised not to trouble you with them." *Copy.* (X. 430.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL.

1697, Nov. 5. [N.S.] Hague.—"My Lord Jersey took his leave of the States on Saturday, and is gone to Zuylesteyn to wait on His Majesty. I have order to take my leave, and I hope I shall wait on you when the King comes over. The yachts are arrived: Sir Clouesly and Admiral Benbow are both here: how good a convoy the King is likely to have in time of peace, and how hard it was for him to get any whilst the war lasted! We expect the King here on

Thursday, and I believe he will only wait the change of wind, for everything here is ready for his signing.

"The public rejoicing is to be to-morrow: a great firework is preparing for that purpose." *Copy.* (X. 433.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to VISCOUNT TOWNSHEND.

[1697,] Nov. 5. [N.S.] Hague.—"What a cursed thing, my Lord, is this! a secretary to be writing till midnight without having time to say one word to those whom he respects most or loves best. No matter; I shall see you within this fortnight, and in that thought adieu all the melancholy reflections that can be inspired by a huge bundle of papers without any method, or an ambassador without anything but method!

"'Who would' (says Dryden) 'drink this draught of life
Blended with bitter woes and tedious strife,
But that an angel in some lucky hour
Does healing drops into the goblet pour?
When wearied I would spill the baleful cup,
Some sparkling bubble of delight springs up.
My Sovereign or my friend was heard to tell
I served him faithfully, or loved him well:
Then easy hope deceives my flattered taste,
One joy atones ten thousand evils past;
New scenes of thought I from this model frame,
Consent to live that I my part may claim
In Townshend's friendship or in William's fame.'

"I bronche [*sic. i.e.*, stumble], i' faith, and can no more rise in poetry than B . . . . in prose. I hope the *Hoop* in Fish Street will give me some spirits, and cure an ill habit of mind contracted by a thick air of conversation. Dr. Sherrard, you know, said I had no need of anti-scorbutics to help my eyes: may be he will think I have no occasion for good company to cure my ideas. I'll try so good a dose of it by his favour as soon as I get to England as may set me right for a year or two at least. In the meantime I thank you for Dr. English's letter to me and will not say one word how very much I love you, or which is rarer, how very much you deserve to be loved, till I see you. *Amo te: fac me ames. Vale!*" *Copy.* (X. 435.)

The MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697, Dec. 7 [–17]. [Dublin Castle.]—"I received yours of the 18th past, and you talking of coming over so soon made me return you no answer, Mr. May telling me likewise that he lets you know all that passes.

"We received . . . . a letter from my Lord Shrewsbury signifying His Majesty's pleasure that you should go into France with my Lord Portland (whither I wish you a good journey, I need not a pleasant one) and afterwards that you will come hither." (III. 110.)

The Earl of Galway to Matthew Prior.

1697, Dec. 7–17. Au Château de Dublin.—"Je suis bien fâché que vous vous éloigniez encore de nous; mais l'occasion m'en console. Le voyage que vous allez faire en France est pour le service du Roy, et ne peut manquer d'être pour vous un sujet de satisfaction. Je vous l'y souhaite toute entière. Vous ne devez pas douter que nous ne vous conservions une place, que nous espérons que vous viendrez bientôt remplir, et qui ne sauroit être remplie plus dignement. Si le retour dépendoit de vous, je vous exhorterois à le hâter; mais je me contente de souhaiter qu'il ne diffère pas trop longtems le plaisir que je me feray de vous pouvoir dire que je suis sincèrement, etc." *Signed.*

Endorsed by Prior.—"Ld. Gallway, Dec. 7, 1697, by which he consents to my going into France." (III. 111.)

The Marquis of Winchester to Matthew Prior.

1697 [-8], Dec. 28 [-Jan. 7.]—I "was very sorry to hear how the sessions began, but am glad to find by yours that the honest country gentlemen, who were the dupes to the Jacobites and violent men, begin to be a little undeceived, and that at least what you name will be kept on foot for our security; for I own in my poor opinion I cannot think this Peace looks very lasting, though I heartily wish I may be deceived. I have no particular commission to desire of you, but shall be glad to hear how you find matters in France." (III. 113.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Jan. 1[–11]. Dublin Castle.—"I account the honour of your friendship no small part of the advantage that has accrued to me by the post I now serve in, and shall always use my best endeavours to preserve it.

"I send you enclosed an account of what the fees of your office have amounted to each month since my being here, as Mr. Padmer, who has been always trusted in that matter, has from time to time made it to me. I do not question but it is very different from some relations you may have had of it, that is less, for I do believe the fees have generally come to much more, for which I can find but two reasons. One is the great reducement that has been made by the present Lords Justices therein, especially the military part, which used to be the most beneficial; and the other is the strictness of the Government for the appearance of officers at musters, the fees of their dispensation on those occasions having formerly made a considerable part of the profits of the office.

"What I have further to observe to you in this matter is that besides the fees it has been often (I won't say always) customary to receive money for despatch, as they call it, or a sort of gratification, for the want of which I am pretty sure people's affairs have been sometimes delayed; insomuch

that for some time after our arrival scarce any one brought a paper of any consequence without some guineas more or less, which would have come to a great deal in the year. I can affirm I never received a farthing of any one, nor has there to my knowledge been any more received in this office than the allowed fees, of which the enclosed is the account, over and above the clerk's share.

"You will be pleased to make use of what I have said only for your own information, for it would not become me to criminate them that have gone before me, nor can it, I am sure, be your intent." (IV. 1.)

The Earl of Galway to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Jan. 4 [–14]. Dublin Castle.—The assurance you give me that your stay in France ought to be a very short one gives me pleasure, and I pray you to make me find it still shorter by giving me sometimes news of yourself and of affairs. What you told me before you left England points to a success more complete than could be expected. Particularly I thank you for the paper on "A Standing Army," in which this subject is very clearly treated. Whoever is the author, I esteem him and I love him; I pray you to assure him of it, if you know him. *French. Signed.* (IV. 2.)

Endorsed by Prior :—"Ans. the 9 Ap. 1698."

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

[1697–8, Jan. 9[–19]. *Endorsed.*]—"I believe my Lord Pembroke spoke to you that it is necessary you take with you the lists of the French Protestants who are prisoners in France. He thinks you have several of them, as well those sent by my Lord Galway as others. My Lord Portland intends to do what he can towards procuring their liberty." (IV. 4.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Jan. 14[–24]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter from Dover and hope shortly to hear of your arrival at Calais, and how Mr. Berkenhead hath complimented you.

"Though you will not frighten the French with our standing army, yet you may assure them that by our disbanding we have steadfast purposes to preserve the Peace, and if they have not the same, it will be but fair in them to let us know it before we proceed much further. We are not in such haste to disarm but you will have time enough to enquire what they intend on that side." (IV. 5.)

James Vernon to [? the Earl of Portland].

1697–8, Feb. 1[–11].—"I am commanded to send Your Excellency the enclosed copies of papers that were laid before His Majesty last night at the cabinet council: two

of these are in behalf of poor French Protestants who were taken at sea and in danger of being sent to the galleys. His Majesty would have your Excellency give them what assistance you can towards their being set at liberty: to that end I send you a list of such prisoners as we have in Newgate whom His Majesty is willing to release if the like favour may be shown to these persons and some others under their circumstances. As to Tessier, who was taken on board a Portuguese ship, I have orders to speak to the Portugal Envoy that he should use his endeavours to get him released, since their protection was violated by the seizure.

"There is likewise a letter from Sir Paul Ricaut concerning a Hamburger who has been seized at Brest in revenge for the putting Captain Vaughan, since condemned for piracy, into our hands. Their circumstances are so different that His Majesty hopes you may prevail to prevent his being otherwise dealt with than as his innocence and case deserves.

"By the letter from Mr. Methuen, the Envoy at Portugal, Your Excellency will observe that a ship taken from the French hath been stopped there to show them their unreasonableness in not releasing a boat of ours when there was the same justice for it; however, His Majesty sends his orders to Mr. Methuen that he detain the ship no longer, as being willing rather to give the example how he intends to observe the Treaty; and though not only the French privateer but the Ambassador himself at Lisbon were failing on their part, yet His Majesty does not doubt but their behaviour will be disowned, and that satisfaction shall be given for the boat belonging to the *Cambridge* which was so unfairly carried off, and His Majesty the rather inclines to believe it, since Sir Joseph Williamson sent over by the last post an order from the Court of France for restoring all English ships that had been taken since the 2nd of October and brought into the ports of Dunkirk and Calais.

"We have had a very busy week in this office by the multitude of petitioners who sue for leave to stay in England for avoiding the penalty of the late Act, some of which have been refused, but most granted where their circumstances and behaviour and in certain cases the solicitations of others pleaded for them. Those who are denied are getting away as fast as they can, and some are doing so who never asked for leave, as the Earl of Ailesbury, and, as they say, Oglethorp and his wife. This law will cause a great dispersion among them, and few will venture the being taken up. Lord Montgomery went away yesterday; Lord Ailesbury, who went away the day before, had his lodgings searched somewhere in Kent by some who said they had a warrant for to take up the Lord Montgomery. I suppose it must have been procured by those who were his bail and think they shall be left to answer their recognizance upon his going away.

"We have a report here as if Harrison, the priest, were lately come over, and some say he is in one place, others in another. I believe it may be no difficult thing for Your Excellency to be satisfied whether he be in France or not, otherwise one may have an endless trouble and alarm to look after him to no purpose if he should be at the same time in his convent.

"I asked Mr. Montague lately whether they had taken into consideration the protocol about what was to be paid to the late Queen; he said they had it before them, but knew not well what they could say to it." (IV. 6.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 2[–12].—"I am sorry you have had so ill a seasoning in that country, and should have been more concerned but that I heard at the same time you were in a way of recovery.

"I am satisfied the messengers must be useless to you if no way be found to help them to money, and I don't know how you can have your letters conveyed without them, unless the packets are left to be opened at discretion. I have the King's orders to write to the Treasury that each of them have 100*l.* given him on account, but they are apt to say it is easier to direct the payment of money than to find it. I suppose Kenge will hardly think of returning unless he gets it.

"I hope the care taken to shew how welcome you are may be improved further than to the dislodging of Berkenhead from Calais. If you leave King James at St. Germains, all the rest is but compliment. We hear Berkenhead hath cheated the postmaster at Calais at play, and that he is gone from there on that account." (IV. 7.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 4[–14]. Whitehall.—"I made it my endeavour to have seen you before you went for France, but was not so happy, though I left word with Mrs. Prior where to send for me all the day before you went, intending to have got you to have signed a blank indenture for your plate, without which I cannot get it out of the Jewel Office; and no post being settled between England and France, I knew not how to send till I heard from you.

"I find this cold weather has been a little too sharp for your thin body, and am glad you are (as you write me word) pretty well over it.

"I doubt not but you have heard from Mr. Stepney since you left England." (VIII. 259.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1697–8, Feb. 4 [–14]. Paris.—"When I last wrote to Your Lordship I was really at death's door, but not liking much

the prospect I made all imaginable haste to return, and may, I hope, stay longer in the land of the living. My Lord [Portland] has had two audiences in particular at Versailles, and externally these people are very kind to us; their not hastening to disband in general, and their only reforming the English and Irish troops makes one think they are not so good friends with us as they would have us imagine. The whole nation is so in a military state that it cannot subsist without its continuing so still, the gentlemen are ruined if they cease to be officers, and it is impossible for the common people to be brought in some years or with small difficulty to tillage or manufacture: if I join to this the blind bigotry they have for the Papist religion, and the notion which the people have that King James has lost his crowns merely for religion's sake, I shall conclude that sooner or later we shall be attacked from hence, and that some standing force in England is no very impertinent thing; but what we cannot help we must suffer. Plays, masques, and operas are as much thronged as ever; the people of quality are mighty expensive; the *partisans* and *fermiers* have all the money in their own hands, which they must lend the King, and can make no other use of it. He is getting it as fast as he can into his own coffers, and will then lower the value of it and repay them at leisure, thinking no further at present than to get the money which he needs; and for the rest, as much as one may judge of things by their appearance, poverty and misery are very much, even at Paris. I believe our show day cannot be yet this fortnight; trappings for all our beasts of four and of two legs will not be ready sooner. In the meantime I have little more to do than to make a leg thrice a day for my chocolate, my dinner and my supper, and run about the rest of my time as fast as two lean nags can carry me like Bartholomew Coates to gape or to buy, and pay my respects to rare company, monks, poets, tailors, academicians, nuns, seamstresses, booksellers and players." *Copy.* (XI. 1–3).

The Earl of Dorset to Matthew Prior.

[1697–8,] Feb. 7[–17].—"This gentleman, the bearer, who earnestly desires to be recommended to your acquaintance, is a man of a good estate, good sense, and excellent principles; and I am sure you will like his conversation better than that of most of your fellow travellers.

"I have escaped the grief and trouble your sickness would have given me by hearing of your recovery at the same time. I desire no other news but the confirmation of this, for the health and happiness of a friend that I love and esteem so much shall always concern me more than any public affairs, and equal at least to my own private ones, for I am and always will be, dear Matt, your affectionate and most humble servant." (IV. 9.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Lexington.

1698, Feb. 18. [N.S.] Paris.—"I thought I might have waited Your Lordship's coming to London, and there have told you *viva voce* that nobody could be gladder of your safe return than myself, but higher powers have ordered otherwise, so I send this letter in my stead to you, my good Lord and Master, as a county sends an address to the King, to welcome you from your foreign expeditions, and to tell you I stand by you with my life and fortune. The latter is all in the Treasury and amounts to twelve hundred pounds, when I can get it; and I thought a violent cold some days since might have fairly eased me of the former, but all, I hope, is growing well again. I wish Your Lordship or the fair Secretary would command me to do anything for you here, for by that means I should hear how you do; and this, too, is to usher in a request of my own. Two friends of mine, Mr. Deputy Secretary of Scotland (Pringle) and Doctor English, solicit me to get a third friend of theirs to be governor to your nephew. I can only say that of the two friends I name I take Doctor English to be as competent a judge of the qualifications necessary for a governor as any man alive, and he recommends this gentleman with great assurances of his being worthy the employment. Pringle is a good ingenious man and knows books and things, and he is likewise very earnest that I use my interest with Your Lordship in this gentleman's behalf, which I would not do but that upon all the character I have heard of this gentleman it will be a service to Your Lordship's family to take him, so I most humbly beg leave for this boldness.

"There is little stirring here, the King is at his prayers at Versailles, and all the rest of the world at the plays and operas here. The whole kingdom is poor, and all the wealth of it in the hands of *partisans* and *fermiers* here, who have drained the people, and are in their turn to be squeezed by the Government. But considering the state of this monarchy as to its military part, and I am afraid we are a little too hasty in voting down so very precipitately our army. You will pardon this medley of a letter. I write to you as I would talk to you, and I wish I was to do that soon." *Copy.* (XI. 3-6).

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1697–8, Feb. 18 [N.S.]. Paris.—"The reason you have not heard sooner from me is that my Lord [Portland] deferred to send an express till he had obtained a second audience of the King of France. He lets His Majesty know the effects of it in His Majesty's letters. I may venture to say to you that it has not been with all the success we could have wished, and I believe we shall wait His Majesty's answer to the despatches we now send before we proceed to have any other audiences public or private. King James's two troops of guards are broke, which is all the news I know."

" I think of all [the] people mentioned in our proclamations we have only the Duke of Berwick, Berkeley, Harrison the priest, Goodman and Berkenhead. I wish I were furnished with the trials or other authentic accusations of these people, that upon mentioning any of them I may be sure of what we have against them, the greatest exactness being requisite on our side as to matter of proof, when we complain of these people being harboured here." *Copy.* (XI. 6.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to CHARLES MONTAGUE.

[1697-8, Feb. 18. N.S. Paris.]—" It is a shame that I have not writ to you, but I have been dying, but as matters stand at present with me, I think I may hold out some years longer, at least I am trying how far patience and posset drink will contribute towards it. I promised to give you some account of the state of things here, and I think it may be done in one word, that the whole money of this nation is at Paris in the hands of the *partisans* and *fermiers*, from whom it must necessarily come into the King's, since they can dispose of their money no otherwise whilst the *louis d'or* is at 14 *livres ;* and he will keep it so till he has got all the money he can, frightening the people every week with the report of its falling, so that it is better for particular men to trust the Government and make what advantage they can of their money, than let it lie dead by them (for all traffic and merchandise is quite lost), whilst they fear they may lose one or two, or indeed three *livres* to bring it to the ancient standard, in 14. The Court, too, having all places and advantages to bestow, and everybody being noted as, according to their condition, they bring in their money, and bailiages and intendantships bestowed, whereby those who lend to the King are enabled to recover themselves by robbing the people, every man is obliged to swim with the stream and contribute to ruin the public in his own defence. This in their good humour themost sensible of them do not stick to confess; and even some Maréchals of France, whom I have had the honour to be with, have said openly enough how happy a people we were who were governed by established laws and taxed by our own consent.

" The common people of this nation have a strange veneration for their King : it is certain he might have the last penny of them, as well by their inclinations as his power *pour la gloire :* but the people of quality hate him to hell, and (as the French do things always to excess) there is nothing so extravagant as their expressions in this kind in an *auberge* overnight, though they dare as well be hanged as not rise at five the next morning to be at Versailles by eight.

" The monarch as to his health is lusty enough, his upper teeth are out, so he speaks a little like old Manard, and picks and shows his under teeth [with] a good deal of affectation, being the vainest creature alive even as to the least things.

His house at Versailles is something the foolishest in the world; he is strutting in every panel and galloping over one's head in every ceiling, and if he turns to spit he must see himself in person or his Vicegerent the Sun with *sufficit orbi*, or *nec pluribus impar*. I verily believe that there are of him statues, busts, bas-reliefs and pictures above two hundred in the house and gardens.

"My Lord Ambassador has not had yet his public audience, he has had two in particular, and I hope the effect of them will be to have the good folks at St. Germains removed a little further, but we make a secret of this, for it were better to have it thought that we never attempted it than that we miscarried in the attaining it." *Copy.* (XI. 16–19.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

[1697–8, Feb. 22. N.S. Paris].—"I send you enclosed a list of what goods Count Tallard will bring with him into England. . . . . His Excellency [Portland] desires your assistance in recommending it to the officers of the Treasury and Customs, whom it may concern, that Count Tallard may have all imaginable civility shown him on this occasion, as well as to the opening of his goods as to the customs to be paid for their entry, His Excellency having been treated here in every thing of that nature most obligingly, and it being convenient that we in England should be as little behindhand as we can in point of good manners."

"As to our own affairs, my Lord [Portland] gives a particular account of them to His Majesty. We were yesterday at Meudon, where the Court is at present. They are very civil to us; the King talked a good while to my Lord as soon as he came out of his closet and saw him; he dined with the Monseigneurs, Monsieur, and the Duke de Chartres. My Lord stayed a part of his dinner, and then dined with the Marshal de Villeroy and Marshal de Boufflers."

"Pray let me know if you receive people indifferently into England from France, or if any straggling people that do not come under your proclamation must have my Lord Ambassador's passport." *Copy.* (XI. 12–14.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 13 [–23]. Whitehall.—"I send you what I can recollect at present in relation to the assassination, and for your fuller information I send you the several trials, out of which you may collect all that was given in evidence when those rogues were convicted; and I have added as many of their dying speeches as I could recover in so short a time; whereby you will perceive I don't know whether you can so easily satisfy others that the fact was not only owned but gloried in." (IV. 10.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1697–8, Feb. 28. N.S. Paris.—"We have three posts from England by the same messenger. . . . . I am mighty glad you have found the secret of making the messengers useful to us. I confess they are very far from being so, whilst not a man of them would stir (or could) from hence for our letters at Calais till he was equipped with 12 or 14 *louis*. . . . . If the business is no better done for the future than hitherto it has been, I protest I will send them home again.

"I have wrote to Mons. Pigault about this affair; in short, if the four messengers will do their duty well, we shall always have one ready at Calais to bring our letters from thence, which is certainly necessary; and this I think the only way by which we should receive our letters, considering that these people make no scruple of opening any letters whatsoever that come into their hands."

Postscript.—"There is a talk that the King of France has a mind to live at St. Germains, it being his native air and more proper for him than Versailles. This may be a fair pretext of sending the present inhabitants of St. Germains further. Things are very low with them, forty of their Irish friends that arrived here lately did not as much as see King James, but had each four *livres* only distributed to him, and leave to go seek their fortune where she might be kinder. Lord Melford is out of the Bedchamber, and his party entirely in disgrace; Lord Middleton is the hero in the farce at present.

"I am plagued to death with messages from my Lord Stafford, so would beg you to advise me how his circumstances stand, for I think he has been outlawed. He pretends to have lived here this eighteen years without any design than that of preserving his health, that he had a passport from His Majesty and is not comprehended in the proclamation. . . . . Your orders will instruct me how I am to answer his solicitations, for His Lordship I neither can nor will see. His Excellency [Portland] is equally vexed with him as I am. Goodman was imprisoned for talking too loosely of His Most Christian Majesty for having deserted his ally King James and made the Peace. This, I hear, was the language of St. Germains till King James cautioned them all to forbear it." *Copy.* (XI. 15 and 20.)

Richard Powys to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 19 [–March 1]. Whitehall.—"I doubt not but you have heard how Mr. Chancellor [Montagu] has been attacked in the House of Commons, and that he came off to our great satisfaction with much honour. Yesterday the House of Commons were in a committee upon the Bill against Mr. Duncomb, and have laid a fine on him of two-thirds of his real and personal estate." (VIII. 263.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF ALBEMARLE.

[1697-8, March 1. [N.S.]. Paris.—" Le Roy a beaucoup de santé pour un homme de soixante ans, et plus de vanité qu'une fille de seize. On n'a qu'à voir sa maison pour en mépriser souverainement le maître : bas-relief, fresco, tableaux, tout représente Louis le Grand, et cela d'une manière si grossière que le Czar y trouveroit à redire. Il ne sçauroit cracher dans aucun coin de ses appartements sans voir sa propre figure ou celle de son lieutenant le Soleil, et sans se trouver Héros et Demidieu en peinture. Le Dauphin est à peu près notre Prince George, hormis que l'un ne baise que la Princesse, et l'autre toutes les filles de l'Opéra sans distinction. Monsieur est une petite marionette d'une voix cassée, qui cause beaucoup et ne dit rien. Toute la Cour est sombre et triste ; la bigoterie et le ménage y règne à un point que les filles à genoux disent leur Paternostre dans les galeries comme dans un couvent, et les gardes du corps, mettant leurs armes à part, nouent des franges comme les filles en Angleterre.

" Il est sur ma foy impossible de vous exprimer, my Lord, la vénération qu'on a icy pour notre Roy et la haute estime qu'on fait de sa capacité. Ce qu'on dit sur ce chapitre, malgré toute la contrainte [où] on en est, fait un meilleur portrait d'un véritable roy que ce qui est peint pour tout Versailles et Meudon ; et les véritables témoignages qu'on donne de sa grandeur à peu près malgré eux font un panégyrique de Sa Majesté plus parfait que n'ont fait tous les poètes d'Angleterre.

" Le Roy Jacques et sa femme étoient dans cette ville icy il y a huit jours. Ils y partirent le même soir, après avoir fait leurs dévotions et leurs visites à Madame. Sur la mort de l'Electeur de Hanovre on dit qu'ils sont fort tristes et qu'ils commencent à parler assez durement du Roy de France, ce qui pourroit plus contribuer à leur éloignement de St. Germains que toutes nos remontrances." *Copy.* (XI. 23-24).

——— to [MATTHEW PRIOR].

169[7-]8, March 1. [N.S.] Livorne.—" Il y a quelque machination tramée à Rome par des gens qui sous prétexte de voyager poussent leur desseins avec succès : n'y ayant personne dans ce païs qui y veille, vu que ceux qui le devroient faire sont fort sujets à caution de ce côté là, les jeunes gens qui viennent icy et qui s'y établissent, se corrompent tant dans leur religion que dans la fidélité envers le Roy, et cela par les intrigues de cette maudite race de moines Anglois et Irlandois qui sont icy, à Rome, et à Venise. Ce sont des choses dont les conséquences sont très dangereuses, si l'on n'y prend garde. Le monstre en question partit il y a un mois pour Rome, où il doit aller prendre ses dernières instructions, pour de là s'aboucher avec les zélés qui sont à Venise, et puis passer en France, d'où ils s'embarqueront pour Douvres. Je le say pour le luy avoir ouï dire dans son monastère la veille

de son départ : il ne me soupçonnoit pas, ne sachant pas que j'entendois l'Anglois. Ils sont une bonne troupe pour le voyage, mais ils passeront les uns après les autres à Douvres, pour ne pas donner de l'ombrage.

" Je vous ferois bien le portrait du pèlerin : mais comme je ne l'ay vu qu'en habit de moine, il sera méconnoissable par son déguisement. Mais ce qu'il ne peut changer, c'est sa taille et sa voix. Il est de taille médiocre et déliée ; le poil et les yeux bruns et roulants ; la parole un peu bégayante ; la voix claire parlant bon François et Italien. J'espère que Dieu les fera échouer dans tous leurs desseins et entreprises, vous confirmant le contenu des précédents sur ce sujet, qui furent rendues à my Lord Portland." *Copy.* (XX. 51.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 21 [– March 3]. Whitehall.—" I do not well know what you mean by straggling people coming from France that are not within the late Act of Parliament. You may be sure that all due regard will be had to my Lord Ambassador's pass ; but if any come over who are within the reach of the law, nothing can in strictness exempt them from the penalties of it but their obtaining His Majesty's licence under the Privy Seal. I send you a list of those to whom licences have been refused, and if any of those apply to you, you will hold your hand till His Majesty's pleasure be known whether he will allow of their coming over." (IV. 11.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

169[7-]8, March 3. N.S. Paris.—" I have the favour of yours of the 13th February together with the trials and accounts of the merits of our rogues supposed here, of which I shall make use as occasion may require, though as yet I do not see the least glimpse of this Court being in a disposition to hear us on this head.

" I was yesterday at Marly to make my Lord's compliments to the Princes and Princesses of the Blood, and to ask their coaches for the entry designed to be on Sunday ; yet while these people receive and caress us, they do the same to King James. He and his Queen were at Marly the night before ; they supped with the Court and stayed there till almost midnight. The Princes of the Blood are at the bottom of their hearts in their interest. Madame de Maintenon, who is our good friend, is indisposed.

" I have likewise yours of the 21st, and will explain what I mean by straggling people. I mean Englishmen, who have been in a way of trade or service of private people here, and were actually in the kingdom before the beginning of the war, and have stayed here ever since, who now, being desirous to return home, ask a pass of my Lord, if such people and others, whom the proclamation does not forbid to return

into England, may have my Lord's passport in case they have a mind to come to you.

"I have written to you before concerning our messengers, and must repeat again that I have reason to be dissatisfied with the service of most of them. In general they have no money, and whenever we are to send away a messenger, my Lord must give him fourteen or sixteen *louis d'ors.* Cange, I have already informed Your Honour, went from hence for England the 5th of February, promising to return with the very first letters you should send from thence; he returned only the 2nd of March (last Sunday), and his staying in England thus long was the occasion of the packets lying at Calais: he brought us the letters of the 13th V.S., by which you see he was not over hasty in coming.

"Toms, the last expedition he made, went from hence the 19th February to Calais, and returned the 25th February, being, as you see, six days in the ways.

"Allen was sent from hence the 22nd with a written order of my own hand to make all expedition to Calais and return from thence with the letters he should find there, the same order repeated to him verbally by me before witnesses; yet he goes into England and is there I suppose till this time.

"Brown, the extraordinary messenger, does his duty, but for the three others it would be well for the King's service if the three hundred pounds were given to three others, who might be sent over to us and do their business better, for these three are not worth so many farthings.

"*Nemo miser nisi comparatus:* it is evident what people these messengers are, since a young fellow, whom my Lord sent from hence the 1st of March at eleven at night, returned from Calais the 5th at two afternoon. You will, I hope, endeavour to have this thing remedied.

"Since my hand is in at complaints, I must tell you that as to the designed entry to-morrow, some of our people squabble for places very frowardly and give this trouble about a trifle.

"We have no new letters worth Jimmy's transcribing, so he only copies bills of ranking our gentlemen and letters to-night."

Postscript.—"My Lord gives His Majesty an account that this Court would have obliged us to give place to the Duchess de Verneuil* as a Princess of the Blood, but that His Excellency persisting in it that he would rather desist from making his entry than yield, they have given up the point, contenting themselves to propose it as a rule that shall be observed for the future; so we are to squabble it out the next embassy we send." *Copy.* (XI. 25.)

* *Cf. Letters of William III. and Louis XIV.* ed., Grimblot, i. 206.

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 25 [–March 7]. Whitehall.—"I think you have done very well to refuse Pigault's offers. We shall all

be taught soon enough what French civility tends to; one can't put a letter into their hands but they will be thrusting their nose and their eyes into it.

"I wish your news prove true that the French King begins to take a fancy to St. Germains air. They take care to have it understood otherwise, but I take it for granted, whenever King James removes, it shall be upon any other pretence rather than our soliciting it.

"I can't think Goodman was taken up for the reasons you mention. If such an inconsiderable fellow had been taken notice of for speaking ill of the King of France, they would have laid him up where he should not have come out so soon; but if he was seized as we suspect for the preservation of Lord Ailesbury and Lord Montgomery, they being retired to places of safety, the reasons were ceased for detaining the evidence against them.

"I can't yet find anyone to inform me of my Lord Stafford's case, but I take it for granted he is outlawed. I find three of that name on my list, viz.: Henry Howard, Esquire, Earl of Stafford, in the kingdom of Ireland [*sic*], and John and Francis Stafford, who, I suppose, are his brothers and have taken their mother's name. I hope you will take care that he have no pass, and if he comes hither on his own accord, he is to expect the treatment my Lord Clancarty hath had." (IV. 12.)

The Marquis of Winchester to Matthew Prior.

1697–8, Feb. 28[–March 10]. Dublin Castle.—"I received the favour of yours of the 11–21 instant, and am concerned that you had so ill a welcome to Paris as sickness, which I am glad you have got over so well.

"I cannot but be glad at the poverty you say you think is in France (notwithstanding the appearance at Paris is quite otherways), for that will keep them fast to their treaties, whatever other designs they may have. I never doubted their exterior civility to you, and I hope they will be real when you come to essentials, for I fancy the French want but a good excuse to get rid of King James; the breaking of his guards is a little ominous.

"I don't doubt but you heard as soon as we did how Mr. 'Mountigue' was attacked, and that he came off with flying colours.

"Here is no news to send you from hence but that five regiments came from Flanders the beginning of January, and eight more are ordered, of which four are arrived and the rest are expected every day, and two regiments of horse and one of dragoons are likewise coming hither; and to make room for these we have received orders for the breaking of nine regiments of foot, and one of horse, and the only one that is here, which was Brigadier Ousley's. I hope they will give these officers half pay as well as those that are broke in

England, else it would be very hard, they being broke to preserve other regiments who would have been entitled to that pay." (IV. 13.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697–8, March 2[–12]. Whitehall.—"I have acquainted His Majesty with what you write about persons that desire passports. The King thinks they should be given only to trading people who may be of some use when they come hither, but for other vagabonds, who are fit only to be carriers of messages and intelligence, they may as well stay where they are.

"I am sorry our gentlemen are more troublesome than serviceable whenever they come to public assemblies. I suppose you saw something of the same humour in them at the Congress." (IV. 14.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697–8, March 3 [–13]. Whitehall.—"Exchequer bills are now seven pounds per cent. discount, which is a great loss to you, nor can I tell how you will be remedied but by lengthening an article in your extraordinaries.

"Madam Prior sent me word you had drawn a bill for 40*l.* on her, payable this month, which she had accepted. She pretends she wants money, and would have me to pay it. I sent her word I had no money of yours in my hands, only some few exchequer bills which would not be taken for bills of exchange; nor had I received any directions from you relating to it.

"I am glad to hear your health is so well returned that you begin to look after the ladies. I had a summons last week from Crown Court, where I found better entertainment than the last time when I waited on you. The lady shewed me a letter from our friend Mr. Stepney, which he had given my Lord Lexington, who came with Count Freiz (as she says) to her house." (VIII. 267–8.)

THE EARL OF DORSET to MATTHEW PRIOR.

[1697–8,] March 6[–16. London.]—"The messenger is just parting, and will not give me time to chide you for not sending me a more particular account of your health. I am no more a courtier, and therefore I hope you will believe I deal plainly and truly when I assure you that your welfare and happiness in all kinds is and always shall be one of my chiefest concerns. I could almost wish you out of all public affairs that I might enjoy your good company oftener, and share with you in that ease and lazy quiet which I propose to myself in this later part of my life either at home or in some warmer climate.

"If there be any good cuts of the pictures in the King's closet or of the buildings at Marly, pray make up a box of them and send me punctual directions how to return you the

money for them, or any other baubles that I shall desire you to buy for me.

"There is a design here afoot to make Gresham College less ridiculous and more useful than it has been; therefore pray let me know exactly what the new regulations are in the Royal Academy *des Beaux Esprits* at Paris." (IV. 15.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

[1697-8, *circa* March 16. N.S. Paris.]—"Before this comes to your hands you will hear of Count Tallard, who stayed some days at Calais, not venturing to embark because of the ill weather and contrary winds that have blown there.

"The Jacobites are rare fellows, yet my Lord Portland and the Maréchal de Boufflers are as great friends as is possible for two men in their characters to be.

"There is two hundred men about St. Germains, and as many about this town of King James' Guards, which I have told you were lately broke; they are starving and swearing against the King of France and their old master.

"They have heard at St. Germains what my Lord has endeavoured towards their being removed: the Duke of Berwick and his myrmidons threaten us with sword and fire, which, I think, is as wisely thought and is as likely to do them good as the usual methods they have. Mr. Aglionby is at Calais regulating the posts. I have sent him what I had by me relating to that affair.

"Mr. Stepney told me before my leaving England that his Board had laid a state of our trade with this kingdom before His Majesty. My Lord desires a copy of that paper may be sent to us."

Postscript.—"Count de Grammont having given my Lord the enclosed case of his daughter, the Lady Stafford, His Excellency desires to know what may be done in it. I do not send you the copy of two Memoirs we gave in yesterday to Mr. Pomponne, one for release of prisoners, the other of ships, His Excellency having enclosed them in his packet to the King. You will, I presume, have them from His Majesty." *Copy.* (XI. 32.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Albemarle.

[1697-8, *circa* March 19. N.S. Paris.]—"Depuis que je me suis donné l'honneur de vous écrire, nous avons fait tous les tours de passe-passe d'ambassadeur, et rendu visite à tout le monde depuis Louis le Grand en personne jusqu'au représentatif de notre bon allié le Duc de Savoye. L'entrée et l'audience sont si bien mis en œuvre dans la Gazette que les politiques en doivent être parfaitement contents. Vous me dispenserez, my Lord, si je vous épargne le récit. Les badauts trouvent nos chevaux beaux et notre équipage fort leste et nombreuse, mais ils objectent aux carrosses qu'ils ne sont pas assez magnifiques pour l'occasion, et peut-être ils ont raison là.

" L'autre jour que my Lord étoit à St. Clou[d], Monsieur le fit voir sa belle maison, et le laissa après avec Madame, s'excusant de ce qu'il étoit obligé de sortir : il l'étoit en effet, car un moment après il monta en carrosse pour rendre visite à la Reine Jaquette à Chalieux [Chaillot], maison religieuse proche de Paris, où elle faisoit alors ses dévotions. Enfin cette Cour ne se dément point ; et quand les François deviennent gens de bien, je croiray que leur église a le véritable pouvoir de faire des miracles.

" Je suis informé que les préparatifs à Toulon sont fort considérables, les troupes qu'ils gardent sur pied fort nombreuses ; et la santé du Roy d'Espagne presque désespérée . . . . tout cela bien considéré, je vous laisse à penser, my Lord, si la paix sera de longue durée. J'espère que nous ne nous endormons point. J'ay écrit sur ce sujet aux plus puissants de mes amis en Angleterre.

" Il est certain que la France est bien honteuse de la Paix qu'elle vient de faire : les prêtres et les bigauts nous haïssent au dernier point, et c'est assurément avec beaucoup de plaisir que je voy que l'habileté des ministres n'est pas si grande que la malice du peuple. Pontchartrain est universellement décrié comme qui l'entend les finances le moins et qui ruinera le plustôt. Torsi n'a point de génie : tout son mérite est d'être né Colbert, et d'avoir épousé la fille de Pomponne. Ce dernier a la réputation d'honnête homme, et il est reconnu pour le premier ministre après la Maintenon (cela s'entend toujours). C'est prodigieux que le pouvoir de cette vieille gouvernante sur l'esprit de son pupil royal de soixante. Il n'ose rien faire sans elle, ni luy refuser tout ce qu'elle veut. Il y a quelques jours qu'un petit employ fut donné par l'intercession de Mons. de Torsi à un de ses amis : l'ordre étoit dépêché, et l'affaire comme faite : un autre s'addressa plus heureusement à la Maintenon : elle envoye sur le champ un valet de chambre seulement au secrétaire, et dans un quart d'heure tout estoit changé : la première commission estoit anéantie et une autre présentée au Roy pour être signée en faveur du dernier suppliant.

" Je ne sçay, my Lord, si vous avez vu le lamponne inclus. On s'attendroit à quelque chose de meilleur sur un si bon sujet, mais je ne sçaurois dire par quelle fatalité l'esprit est assez rare à présent en France, et dans une infinité de livres de vers et de lettres qui courent Paris, il n'y a guère qui vaillent la lecture : ce quadrain doit être excepté du nombre :—

' Faire un Electeur de Cologne,
Rétablir Jacques détrôné,
Donner un roy à la Pologne,
Sont les hauts faits de Dieudonné.' " *Copy.* (XI. 34-37.)

Matthew Prior to Dr. [William] Aglionby, at Calais.

169[7-]8, March 24. [N.S.] Paris.—" I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 10–20 ; I am so too of another

of a former date, and should have told you so, but that you said you were running from Calais without adding whither, and it is not every man's talent, you know, to shoot flying. Now I know where you are perched I do not defer telling you I am yours, I think so I mean, for in my gallooned coats and the hurry that attends my noble post I hardly know myself.

"We go to Versailles to-morrow morning—*nota bene*, that I write this at midnight. I have asked for the paper you require, but do not find any such printed. Mr. Robeton, my Lord's Secretary for French Affairs, will give you a more exact account of that commission before the post goes, since (as I said) I am obliged to wait on my Master to Court.

"Your application of the passage in Horace is so pretty that one would almost die for it, yet I am so dull but to think your *occidit* a damn'd verb, and am, I think, like to live a good deal longer, notwithstanding all the fine things you can say of me in a winding-sheet. *A living dog is better than a dead lion* is, I think, the very wisest saying of the wisest fellow that ever lived.

"One word, as the parsons say, and so conclude. It was what I once writ in my Mézeray when I was reading that book, and splenetic and ill:—

"Yet let me live and I would lie,
And growl, and whine, and scratch and cry
On dunghills lousy and besh . . . . n,
Rather than decently to die,
To have been either Mézeray,
Or any monarch he has written." *Copy.* (XI. 30.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1697–8, March 23[–April 2]. Whitehall.—"I have your letters of the 26th and 29th to acknowledge. . . . I wish you had better news to send us from Spain."

"I have not seen Mr. Attorney to know his opinion upon Count Grammont's case, but it seems to me that, the son-in-law being outlawed, he may as well jointure his lady in Utopia as in England, and if that be his case, I know no relief she can have but by the King's bounty." (IV. 16.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF MANCHESTER.

169[7]-8, April 4. [N.S.] Paris.—"I hear from the Venetian Ambassador here how you are esteemed among the best there, which one loves to hear confirmed by strangers, however sure one was of it before.

"We have played all our tricks except the great one of getting King James a little further, which I do not know if we shall accomplish. However, we have the remedy in our own hands, and if these people will not give us the satisfaction of knowing, or at least of thinking they are far enough from us not to do us any harm, I see no reason why we should give them fifty thousand pounds *per annum*, which may be as well employed in arming against them.

"Mr. Stanhope sends us word that it is impossible the King of Spain should live long, having lost his forces and the small share of sense which he had before his illness. The Court of France is far from being asleep on this occasion; I hope we shall not be so neither. I do not write on this head more amply because these people have a very familiar way of breaking open our letters, as possibly Your Excellency may see they have these, if you take the pains to look upon the seals.

"My Lord Ambassador is gone this morning out of town for a day or two, upon a voyage of pleasure, as we give it out; but it is really to see Prince Vaudemont, who comes within 30 leagues of this town on his way to Milan.

"This Court is so melancholy and bigot that the news of it is hardly worth sending. That which makes most noise in it, and which would make more in any other court of Christendom, is the marriage of Madam Maintenon's niece with the eldest son of the Duke de Noailles. Madam Maintenon received the compliments of the Princesses and ladies on this occasion in a very extraordinary manner. She was in her bed; the Duchess of Burgundy came into her chamber, had a chair set for her, but did not sit; all which mummery was concerted beforehand; and consequently the other ladies could not sit whilst the Duchess stood. Thus, my Lord, this woman is a *je ne sçay quoy*, which everybody reasons of as he thinks good, and of whom nobody can determine what character she really has." *Copy.* (XI. 39–41.)

Matthew Prior to [Dr. William] Aglionby.

1698, April 9. N.S. Paris.—"My Lord understands it that our putting down the Corunna packets was the condition we were to yield to in case the French came to reasonable terms; and if they do so, we cannot well insist upon their being kept up."

Postscript.—"I have chid your messenger. I envy his dining with you, and should have used you better, because I know you better. I would send you the first fable in Æsop, *Gallus gallinaceus*, in verse upon this subject, if I had time." *Copy.* (XI. 42.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, April 9. N.S. Paris.—Informing him that Lord Portland went on the 4th to Notre Dame de Liesse to see Prince Vaudemont, and returned yesternight.

"Young Grimes [Graham], Rene's [Reginald's] son,"* intends to go to England, although Prior has refused to give him a passport as he has paid a visit to St. Germains. He went from England to Holland at the time of the late treaty with a letter of recommendation from Sir William Trumbull, who is a neighbour of his father.

* *Cf.* Buccleuch MSS (Hist. MSS. Comm.) II., I. 163.

Sir Francis Leicester and Mr. Kenyon, a fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, are at Paris. Both are Jacobites, and have been given to understand that passports for England, if applied for by them, will be refused.

Hugh Hugan has informed Prior and Portland of "a dangerous design a carrying on," and will be sent at once to England. "We cannot be too wary of looking who comes from hence: the party at St. Germains were never in so good humour." *Copy.* (XI. 43–45.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to CHARLES MONTAGUE.

1698, April 10. N.S. Paris.—"Our visits of ceremony are over, and my cough is going off. One would not die in this country under the circumstances of debt and heresy; the last indeed is purely my own concern, and I shall take care to adjust it, but the first regards you, and all the good resolutions I can take will signify very little except Mr. Powys be enabled to furnish the first quarter now expired or some of my arrears in ready money or equivalent; for in short the three hundred advance-money is no more, and my all is in the Treasury. I care for no more than will keep me till I come home from France: *Cætera Divis;* I will fare as other people do, and never presume upon the friendship with which you honour me to plague you with complaints and petitions.

"You will judge with what satisfaction I hear of the glorious figure my Master makes in the House of Commons.

"*Hac arte Pollux et vagus Hercules.*—I have a good mind to translate an ode to you of Virtue, Fame and Demigods, for I will swear you carry it very high. Is it not enough to discourage injustice and extortion privately, but that you must strike at it openly in the face of all the world and in the person of its chief Dagon? and could you not be satisfied to be esteemed an honest man and a good patron without having it attested by a whole nation and a kind of law made to tell it to posterity? Jesu! what strides you take, and with what pleasure do I talk of Mons. de Montague to the Torcis and Pontchartrains here!

"These people are all the same, civil in appearance and hating us to hell at the bottom of their heart: they assure us one day of the continuance of their friendship, and tell King James next they will never forsake him or let him go further off than St. Germains. They have a great eye to their naval preparations, as well at Toulon as at Brest. There will be a review made at Compiègne this summer of about 40 battalions of foot and 130 squadrons of horse and dragoons.

"They are constantly informed of the King of Spain's estate by extraordinary couriers, and, according to the best accounts we have, that Prince cannot live many months.

"Madam Maintenon is our friend and will keep the Peace, if possible, as she made it, not out of any kindness she has

to us, but from a notion that the King's engaging in business impairs his health. 'Tis incredible the power that woman has; everything goes through her hands, and Diana made much a less figure at Ephesus. Her niece had t'other day in money and jewels with the Duke de Noailles' son a better fortune than a daughter of France had formerly; and the aunt received the visits of the Court upon it in bed, it being concerted that the Duchess of Burgundy should have a chair set her and refuse to sit, excusing herself upon the shortness of her visit, and that, the Duchess not sitting, the other ladies and princesses could not pretend to it." *Copy.* (XI. 47–49.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, April 16. [N.S.] Paris.—Further news of the supposed plot. Has been informed "that the Irish at St. Germains were never in so good hopes as now; that one Graham" has "said that King James would soon be restored again; and that four persons are going for England from St. Germains by the way of Holland, one of which is Mackarty, who was a lieutenant under Parker, has a blemish upon his eye, and is called from that Blind Mackarty." *Copy.* (XI. 49.)

Matthew Prior to [Alexander] Stanhope.

1698, April 17. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have been so long in the Northern Province as almost to forget there was a south, and whilst I was at The Hague and heard from Stockholm or Copenhague how the King of Sweden or Denmark did, I left the King of Spain to shift for himself, and only enquired of our friends at Brussels what news they had from you concerning him; but now, Sir, that I have changed my side I must beg you would be pleased to adopt me for a correspondent, at least as long as I am here; and that your letters for England may pass quicker by this way than by that of Holland. I make no excuse for my silence whilst Mr. [James] Stanhope was here, for he promised to keep up the correspondence and to assure you of my great respects, and though he be so good a soldier that writing may not be thought properly his talent, I am sure I would never desire a better second for the pen than he is.

"You will doubtless have heard from other hands, or else I would not trouble you with it, of a misunderstanding which happened between my Lord Ambassador and him. I am sorry he resented anything ill after having been treated with all kindness from my Lord. But he is of age, let him answer for himself, and I have business enough of my own not to meddle with anybody's else, though I have a friendship for Mr. Stanhope which makes me wish that whole matter had been otherwise." *Copy.* (XI. 51.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

1698, April 17. N.S. Paris.—Stating that Hogan on his way to England met three persons at Boulogne from whom he believes that he can extract the whole secret of the plot. He is therefore directed to go to England with all speed and visit Vernon "by night, and with all imaginable secrecy, to keep company with these persons till he knows the bottom of their design, and is sure of his affair, and to take" Vernon's "direction for the rest." *Copy.* (XI. 54.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, April 7[–17]. Whitehall.—"I received your letter of the 10th inst., which I sent that night to Newmarket, the King being gone thither. Mr. Yard will let me know what directions His Majesty shall please to give as to passports, but those concerned should be informed that, if they are liable to the law and have been in France since December, [16]88, without leave, a passport will not exempt them from prosecution, but the Act requires they should have a licence under the Privy Seal to return; and I do not doubt but such as His Excellency shall think fit to recommend will obtain it. I think there ought to be the least scruple about artificers and manufacturers, if they have not given any notorious marks of their disaffection, but are like to betake themselves peaceably to their callings."

"I send you . . . Sir Charles Hedges' report upon the petition of the poor ransomers, which hath been laid before His Majesty at the Cabinet Council. . . . . It would be much the best and speediest way if the French would release them upon the reasons Sir Charles gives of their having taken them as hostages contrary to the French King's *ordonnances*, but those, I am afraid, they will interpret for themselves and in favour of their own rogues. . . . . Sir John Lowther, of Whitehaven, hath taken a copy of what relates to his town, and he will write to his merchants to use more conscience. Sir James Ogilvie, the Scottish secretary, thinks it is in their power to relieve the Glasgow man. I still lack to find some just and charitable people at Liverpool and in Wales, and do not yet despair of it." (IV. 17.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, April 10[–20]. Whitehall.—"I have desired my Lord Duke to let me know His Majesty's pleasure about Lord Iveagh.

"I have not yet seen Hogan, whom you mention. When he comes to me, we will make the surest work we can of seizing his companions. We have had a great many alarms of late of designs against the King: I wish we could lay hold on some that have been tampering that way, we would so drive it through all the parts of the discovery, that I hope

we should make the Jacobites repent their meddling and spoil their uppishess." [*sic*] (IV. 18.)

The Postmasters General to the Earl of Portland.

1698, April 11[–21]. General Post Office.—Informing him that they have sent Mr. Aglionby to Calais to treat with Mons. Pajot, Farmer-General of the Post Office of France, for the re-establishment of the correspondence between the two kingdoms; and that Pajot will consent to a treaty on the basis of the old treaty, provided that the service of packets to Coruña be discontinued; otherwise he insists on a renewal of the high tariff made in the treaty of 1676. He pretends that the Coruña service is an innovation, and prejudicial to his own interest as preventing letters to Spain and Portugal from passing through France, whereas the intention was "only that each Office should endeavour to hinder and prevent the setting up of any private boats, or other ways of conveyance of letters, to the prejudice of either Office . . . . This Office did pay *communibus annis* to the Post Office of France 39,000 *livres*, so that Mons. Pajot cannot complain but that he gains very well by the English letters," and they do not think he will be any loser by the Coruña service, "for the merchants will generally write through France as being a more certain conveyance, and if any of them shall write by Coruña, we believe even they will send duplicates overland."

Portland is further urged to endeavour to obtain a renewal of the privilege formerly enjoyed by the packet-boats of entering Calais free from the duty of tonnage: and to communicate his answer from the Court of France to Mr. Aglionby, who cannot otherwise proceed with the treaty. *Signed:* R. Cotton. Tho. Frankland. (XX. 38.)

The Duke of Shrewsbury to Matthew Prior.

1698, April 14[–24]. Newmarket. — "The King being pleased at my Lord Portland's desire to recall him from his extraordinary embassy in France, His Majesty commands me to let you know that 'tis his pleasure you continue there as Secretary of the Embassy till you receive His Majesty's further orders." *Signed.* (IV. 19.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Dorset.

1698, April 24. [N.S.] Paris.—"I cannot positively determine if my not having writ sooner to Your Lordship be a sin, but I vow I am as penitent for it as if it were. I have been so ill that I thought myself going out of the world, but this is but a bad excuse for not writing to him who gave me the means of coming into it with any credit; and to say I have had business is only to confess I have written to a hundred indifferent people, and not done so to the beloved patron for

whom I have the most inviolable esteem and respect. As to the public, the King of Spain's illness and the measures this Court will take upon his death makes all the discourse here, the preparations as well at Toulon as at Brest show these people have a watchful eye in case the thing happen, though I believe they wish as heartily as we that he may live some time longer. The King particularly has no mind to enter into a new war, and Madame Maintenon (our good friend) increases that pacific humour in him by telling him that all business is destructive to his health. He is so attentive to this doctrine that he has said, if the King of Spain dies, he leaves the succession to be determined by the Council, whose determination he will not oppose by way of arms, except they give it to the Emperor's second son. In the meantime Madam Maintenon governs him as absolutely as Roxalana did Solyman. He lives at Marly like an Eastern monarch, making waterworks and planting melons, and leaves his bashas to ruin the land, provided they are constant in bringing in their tribute.

"Our neighbours at St. Germains speak mighty confidently of returning home to England; it seems as if they had some new villainy forging. We have had some advice of that kind, imperfect, some false, but such after all as makes us extremely apprehensive of everything. The Melfordians and Middletonians, who are the Whigs and Tories of that Court, are always fighting. One Beaujer, one of the former faction, killed Crosby (who was tried some time since in England for high treason) in a drunken quarrel the other day in this town, and though these people all together make little more than a private family, they have as much faction and folly amongst them as we can have in England for the heart of us.

"I am much better in health, or if I were dying, the satisfaction of so kind a letter from my Lord Dorset would more revive me than all the drugs they could give me. I am much obliged to Doctor Lister; he took extraordinary care of me as of one whom he knew Your Lordship had favoured and protected; and as matters stand at present, I hope I may go on some years longer to show the great obedience I owe your commands, and the entire veneration and (if I may dare to say so) the perfect friendship I have for Your Lordship and your family."

Postscript.—"The prints say poor Sir Fleetwood is worse, for which I am extremely sorry." *Copy.* (XI. 62–64.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Albemarle.

1698, April 24. N.S. Paris.—"J'espère que vous serez en bonne santé de retour de Newmarket, que votre cheval y auroit gagné le cours, et que vous ayez été heureux au jeu : a t'on pu pousser ses vœux plus loin pour un homme, pendant qu'il étoit en ces quartiers là ?

"Dans ma dernière lettre je pris la liberté de vous entretenir d'un certain Hogan: j'ay averti le Secrétaire d'Etat de ce. J'en ay sçu depuis, que l' homme nous a dit avoir trouvé à Boulogne les gens dont il s'agit, et qu'il y est allé se joindre à eux et les tenir compagnie en Angleterre. Depuis ce tems là il nous vint un autre qui prétendoit découvrir quelque chose de pareil, mais tout ce qu'il fit ce dernier, c'étoit d'excroquer my Lord de 60 pistoles, et de disparoître fort adroitement. Si la conspiration de Hogan ne nous menace de rien qui soit plus atroce, je seray fort content de vous avoir écrit une impertinence: et pourvu seulement que la personne sacrée du Roy soit en sureté, que le Privy puisse souffri[r] et que nous soyons un peu duppés, il m'importe peu. Ce qu'il y a de certain est que ceux de Saint Germains paroissent joyeux plus qu'à l'ordinaire; ils ont à leur commandement assez de gens désespérées et prêtes à tout faire, et par mille marques et mots qu'ils laissent échapper ils font entrevoir comme s'ils eussent quelque chose sur le tapis dont on ne comprend pas le mystère, de sorte qu'on doute et qu'on craint sans sçavoir pourquoy: vous connoissez trop bien mon cœur, my Lord, pour croire que je ferois ma cour en affectant de paroître le zélé, mais sérieusement il y a plus du Diable dans l'âme de ces gens, qu'on ne croiroit, et on ne peut pas trop dire que c'est à vous, my Lord, qui êtes auprès de Sa Majesté, et qui êtes au degré même de son amitié, de luy faire souvenir qu'elle doit garder avec soin la vie sur laquelle dépendent celles de tant de milliers.

"Je suis averti que Parker, Berkely, Byerly, Birkenhead et quelques autres de ces infâmes hommes sont icy incognito. Un nommé Beauger, escuyer et favori du Duc de Berwick, tua l'autre jour Crosby qui étoit accusé il y a quelque tems en Angleterre du crime de haute trahison; c'étoit une querelle du parti; Crosby étoit Middletonian, l'autre Melfordian; c'est à peu près notre Whig et Tory. Assez de la tuerie, je passe à d'autre chose.

"Mademoiselle Florence de l'Opéra (on ne disgracie trop la famille en la nommant) eut la bonté d'accoucher l'autre jour d'une fille. Le Duc de Chartres est amoureux de cette fille depuis environ deux ans. Monsieur et Madame témoignent vouloir prendre soin de l'enfant, et on ne doute guère qu'avec le tems il soit légitimé et mis au rang des Princes du Sang: belle visite à faire à quelque successeur de son Excellence!" *Copy.* (XI. 65–67).

Matthew Prior to Charles Montague.

1698, April 25. [N.S.] Paris.—"Since I did myself the honour to write to you, Mr. Herbert arrived here and gave me your letter; he could not bring a better to entitle him to all the civilities I can possibly show him, though as yet I have scarce begun to show him any, having been taken up

with foolish princes as to their visits, and squabbling if one is to go over the threshold with them, or stand just on this side of it.

"I have done what I never dared do in my life before, that is, sent you a dunning letter; I leave the success of it to Mr. Powys and should not have mentioned it but to ask your pardon for having written it. I believe our stay in France will be longer than we thought, which is the reason of my continuing in the doleful tune of:—'Good Your Honour, for God's sake, enable Mr. Powys to help me, for in my present circumstances I could not play at loo for sixpence a dozen, or shall be able to bring home Mrs. Barton the newest fashioned baby!'

"As to serious affairs, this Court will be ready in case the King of Spain should die, though I think they are very far from wishing it should happen soon. The King of France pretends he will leave it absolutely to the determination of the Council of Spain, except that determination gives the crown to the second son of the Emperor, in which case he will have recourse to arms.

"Our friends at St. Germains are in great hopes (God knows upon what those hopes are founded) of seeing better days yet: they count upon a great many friends in England, and are satisfied that, our armies broke, we shall not be in a condition of resisting such a body of men as they are sure the King of France will send them to land upon us. The Middletonians and the Melfordians, who are the Whigs and Tories, fall out every day: one Beaujour, Major to the Duke of Berwick, killed Crosby t'other day, the man who was tried some time since in England for treason.

"All the nest of rogues are here, Barkeley, Parker, Bryerly, Birkinhead; they threaten nothing but blood and slaughter, but of this I write to Mr. Secretary. I will trouble you no longer on this head, lest you may think my poverty has brought me into ill company, and that I date my letter from the Irish house where these people meet." *Copy.* (XI. 60.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, April 25. N.S. Paris.—"The King of France was yesterday hawking upon the plains by St. Germains with King James and him they call the Prince of Wales. Some of our young gentlemen had the curiosity to go out to see them.

"My Lord James Cavendish met the Duke of Berwick, Mr. FitzJames, whom they call the Duke of Albemarle, and my Lord Middleton in a visit yesterday at the Count de Grammont's: and for all our good treatment wherever we come, I do not find but that the t'other party is received with equal civility."

"Sir Charles Hedges' report upon the case of the poor ransomers is admirable, if His Majesty's power in France

were as valid as his title to that kingdom, we think, is: but as matters stand, it is fitter for a flourish in a book than for practice in reality: for who shall interpret if these people were taken out of their ships upon stress of weather or not? Who shall teach the French the unreasonableness of their taking ransomers, whilst they are to be convinced it is so because we lose by it? or at last who shall stand juratory caution for those people when their owners have abandoned them? I hope your method may succeed, and these poor people may find relief by the care the gentlemen you name will take to find out and oblige these owners to the common duties of humanity: for really an English Ambassador would make but a very bad plea from any topics I have yet seen from Doctors' Commons.

"Mr. Stock, from Dover, writes me word that they carry people before the magistracy there, if they land from France without passports; indeed too much care in that kind cannot be taken, and I could wish . . . . that I had direction from Mr. Yard if every Englishman that goes from France, be he good, bad, or indifferent, shall be obliged to have my Lord's passport, that we may act accordingly; and though His Excellency may not stay long, that he may give a fixed rule to his successor.

"My Lord tells me he mentions to you the affair of Davis: if there be no real design against His Majesty, I wish Hogan may deal with us in like manner." *Copy.* (XI. 68–70.)

Arthur Podmore to Matthew Prior.

1698, April 16[–26]. Dublin.—"Since you are pleased to give me leave to trouble you, it may not be improper to give you this account, that the profits of your office from the entrance of the present Lords Justices to the 31st of March last . . . . amount to no more than 666*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, which is in the hands of Mr. May, and perhaps will be thought much short of what might be expected in almost a year's time, and what in common opinion the place is esteemed to be worth; but considering that the Government has not power to give commissions to the army, which was the greatest advantage to the Chief Secretary in times past, that much of the office business is diverted and many of the fees reduced from what they were, it will not seem strange that no more has been made in so long a time. There has been no neglect of attendance or want of care that might occasion the least decrease." (IV. 20.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Albemarle.

1698, April 23 [–May 3]. Paris.—"Je dois rester icy après my Lord Portland jusques à l'arrivée d'un autre ministre. C'est un grand honneur, je l'avoue, d'estre icy, si ce n'étoit que pour vingt-quatre heures, de la part de Sa Majesté; mais

quand ce successeur seroit nommé demain au matin, il ne pourra venir en moins de trois mois. En attendant votre ministre par interim fera très mauvaise figure, si l'intercession de my Lord Albemarle ne lui procure quelque augmentation à son 40*s.* par jour. Jusques icy j'ay fait une dépense honnête en égard à la dignité de la commission du Roy, mais il me sera impossible d'en user de même quand je ne pourrai plus recourir à la table de Milord Portland, et il ne sera pas comme il faut de chercher mon dîner à l'auberge, ni d'aller à pied aux ministres : et il ne sera ni pour l'honneur du Roy ni pour ma propre satisfaction de faire voir à tout le monde icy que cette grande ambassade de 80 lacqués s'est dégénérée tout d'un coup dans un Secrétariat qui à peine en pouvoit soutenir deux. Je ne plaide pas icy ma propre cause, my Lord, car cecy ne sera pas pour long tems, et je suis assez philosophe de me contenter de fort peu, mais la grandeur du Roy, et les habitudes que j'ay contractés icy demandent que je sois un peu en état de déclarer que je n'étois pas secrétaire de Milord Portland mais de son maître. Voicy l'affaire, my Lord. Vous vous intéresserez si vous le jugez raisonnable. Stepney à Dresden avoit 4*l.* par jour sans le caractère d'envoyé ; il en a cinq à l'heure qu'il est en Prusse. Cresset et d'Hervert en ont autant à Zell et en Suisse. Je ne dis plus mot. Je suis tout à Sa Majesté, et croyray toujours cela plus éligible qu'elle ordonne plus facilement. My Lord Portland est convaincu de l'impossibilité de faire la chose bien sur le pied où elle est : il me promet même d'en écrire au Roy, d'en parler, de le faire, et tout ce qu'on voudra, mais on oublie quelque fois les choses où on n'est pas visiblement intéressé.

" Nous revinmes hier de Versailles, et fûmes l'autre jour dans les jardins avec le Roy, qui promena my Lord par tout. Si c'étoit un compliment fait à my Lord par Sa Majesté ou une ostentation de sa propre grandeur, qu'importe il ? Elle fit sçavoir à son Excellence qu'elle avoit inventé et ordonné tout, qu'elle en avoit dressé les plans, mis en diverses rencontres les architectes à la raison, et à force de dire cecy souvent sans avoir été contredit, à la fin je pense qu'elle commence à le croire. Monsieur étoit obligé de confirmer tout ce que son grand frère disoit, et une demi-douzaine de cordons-bleu y faisoit le chorus, et faisoit remarquer à nous autres combien *gracieux* étoit leur Roy chaque fois qu'il fit à quelqu'un de nous autres la moindre inclination de tête. *Gracieux*, par parenthèse, est le mot à la mode : un homme est *gracieux*, c'est à dire honnête ; une femme est *gracieuse*, belle ; on chante, on mange et on joue *gracieusement*.

" Messieurs d'Odycke et de Heemskerk ont dîné aujourdhuy avec my Lord : Droft et Olderson sont venus comme jeunes gens pour l'honneur de l'ambassade.

" My Lord Anglesey est icy. Je tasche de le gagner autant qu'il m'est possible aux intérests de la patrie, qui sont ceux

du Roy. Il revient beaucoup de ces sentiments Jacobites où il estoit : il sera bon aussi qu'il trouve une réception favorable à son retour à la Cour, car il a de bon sens et sera capable de faire ou du bien ou du mal. Je l'ai prévenu, my Lord, mais selon la vérité, en ce qui regarde votre caractère et personne. C'est aujourdhuy le jour de Saint George, nous avons tous nos croix rouges aux chapeaux ; et quand je boiray le soir à la santé du souverain de cet Ordre, vous permettrez que j'y ajoute la vostre, et d'espérer de vous voir bientôt revêtu de cet habit à la Chapelle de Windsor." *Copy.* (XI. 73–76.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, April 27[–May 7]. Whitehall.—Requesting him to send the originals or at any rate copies of the protocols and ratification exchanged at Ryswick.

" Sir Joseph Williamson hath something of the old chicane running still in his head, and he is not yet satisfied that the French ambassadors dealt ingenuously with you when they maintained that the original treaty offered by them and signed by both parties at Breda was in French. That being in their own custody, he thinks it may be no difficulty to get a sight of it, and that it would be of use for reviving or putting an end to this dispute hereafter. I do not believe they will show that instrument to you directly, especially if it be in another language than what their ambassadors affirmed, but I do not doubt you will find other ways to be satisfied in the point.

" If there be any of the protocols still wanting that you think may be of use to us, Sir Joseph says he can yet procure them, Mons. Lillierode being stopped for some time longer at The Hague." (IV. 23.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, May 17. [N.S.] Paris.—" My Lord will have his audience of *congé* on Tuesday next : how long he will stay *incognito* after I cannot tell, but the King has, I hear, invited him to see Marly the 4th of June, and I believe he may be here long enough for him to accept the invitation. My Lord Manchester arrived here on Sunday last the 11th, and went on Thursday with my Lord to Versailles ; the King received him very kindly and talked very freely with him, desiring him when he took his leave to make his compliments to the King his Master, which the courtiers who magnify everything here look upon as extraordinary, my Lord Manchester not having credentials to this King, and consequently to be looked upon only as a stranger here. We are receiving and returning visits of ceremony, from which we are to get out to-day only, and to begin those of parting, which is playing the same tricks over again, after Tuesday, and these, whatever my Lord resolves, will not be over so soon as is talked of.

" For all the civilities we receive here, they hate us heartily. I heard an oration pronounced on Thursday at the Sorbonne by the Rector of the University which was rather a panegyric upon King James than upon the King of France ; so bigoted these people are and so well affectioned to a Prince whom [*sic*] they think has suffered for the good old cause : there were some unmannerly expressions in it of our King, but such as by making him the chief of the united Princes of Europe, the head of the councils and armies of the heretics, etc., did His Majesty more honour than he really intended him.

" You shall have by my Lord Portland an entire journal of our embassy, or else it would be hard, for we have two or three secretaries to compose it : and I shall likewise return you by His Excellency the copies of the protocols of Ryswick as complete as I could get them, though I own the having them to my Lord Jersey chiefly : Sir Joseph, I have told you, always managing his papers like his gold, he may, and doubtless has them more perfect, but I doubt if you will ever see them except you make him open his books as you do the East India Company by an order from the House of Commons.

" If in the meantime you would have recourse to my papers, my Lord Jersey will let you see his, His Excellency (one may now call him) having copies of everything.

" I am pumping Callières to get a sight (among other papers) of the original Treaty of Breda.

" I have not heard one word from Hogan."

Postscript.—" My Lord this moment tells me of the manner of Count Tallard's receiving you. In all our visits to the Ministers, the Duke de Beauvillier, Mons. de Pomponne, Mons. de Pontchartrain, etc., these gentlemen received my Lord in the vestibule or *salle* near the steps, and almost as soon as my Lord was out of his coach, gave His Excellency the hand, the door, and the *fauteuil*, the gentlemen going out as soon as my Lord and the Ministers were seated, the Minister reconducting my Lord to his coach and staying to see it go. My Lord did the very same thing to these Ministers when they returned the visits, the ceremonial being on both sides upon an equal level. His Excellency writes to you himself upon this subject, and I hope this advertisement comes soon enough for you to give the *lex talionis* to the French Ambassador." *Copy.* (XI. 80–83.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, May 8[–18]. Whitehall.—" I have moved His Majesty about the augmentation of your allowance, which he is willing to do, but would not have it by a new privy seal, which is to make a precedent for others to pretend to it whom he may not have the same reason to gratify. If you can think of any other way you will let me know it, and in the meantime I will advise with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about it.

"I have heard nothing of your Hogan. Pray take as much care as you can that we be as little bubbled by these people as is possible. My son will desire your advice and assistance concerning one of them whom I engaged with as hoping he might be useful. You will be the best judge what he can perform, and consequently what he will deserve, and I shall do all that is fitting on my part." (IV. 26.)

Matthew Prior to Charles Montague.

[1698, May 21. N.S. Paris.]—"Of all my correspondents you are certainly the best, for you never write to me, yet *do* always what I beg of you. I am extremely obliged to you for the two last hundred pounds, which, I hope, will serve till I know what they will do with me. You will see that, my dear Master, sooner than I. They order me to stay here till another ambassador comes, and my Lord Portland has written in my behalf to the King to have the 40*s.* augmented. This other ambassador being my Lord Jersey, I believe I may stay much longer than is thought, which is an admirable reason why I insist much more earnestly than otherwise I should have done upon this augmentation; but I would press nothing; the King has been extremely kind to me, and I will endeavour to serve in that manner he pleases, and think that best he orders most easily. For the rest—*Omne solum forti patria est.* Ῥωξάνη *efficiet quo diutius hic morer, ut videant Galli partes ejus domi minime casuras, illumque potestatem habuisse uxoris fratrem successorem suum relinquendi suumque secretarium illi donandi;* (for you cannot think what a *fauxbrave* the old courtisane is;) Στάτειρα *e contra idem conabitur propter amicitiam Domino* Ἱερσείῳ* *amico suo, qui idem velit, uti* (*credo*) *amicus meus.* Let them jumble up my fortune as they please; I only tell you the thoughts I have of it, and I am sure you will contribute to what you imagine best for me. There is a fate in things which overcomes all human forecast, and Providence may turn up for us what we never thought of for ourselves.

"We took our leave yesterday of this Court, from whom we had a great many compliments and a damned dinner. My Lord talks of going for England within three weeks at farthest. Things continue here in the old train; they are very obliging to us one day and the same to King James the next. This King seems to think of nothing at present but his aqueducts. The apprehension of the King of Spain's death is a little over: the fleet which we talked of that France was setting out comes to no more than about twelve ships in all from Brest, Port Louis and Toulon to take Sally men in the Mediterranean; these infidels (as we call them here) having used the French of late but scurvily. I ought to have spoke of my Lord Manchester's being here in the

* Lord Jersey. Ῥωξάνη is evidently a friend of Portland, who was Jersey's brother-in-law.

beginning of my letter, but that my doing so would have obliged me to mention our poor Mr. [Heneage] Mountagu's death.* I am not such a philosopher but that I am extremely afflicted at it, but what shall we say ? We were born : nature and necessity are too strong for us : *et levius fit patientia Quicquid corrigere est nefas.*

"Dear Horace ! I have a sentence of him upon most occasions, but I find nothing in him applicable to staying at Paris upon 40*s.* a day, where one's coach costs one *louis* and one's lodgings another, before I or mine have eat or drank."

Postscript.—"Send me word what books you have about the Louvre edition, that I may get you the rest." *Copy.* (XI. 83–85.)

John Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1698, May 12[–22]. Whitehall.—With reference to some papers sent over to the Ambassador in Paris about the *Mary* sloop, Thomas Humble, commander, taken into St. Malo by a French privateer after the term for cessation of hostilities was expired ; he desires Prior not to "let this affair cool for want of motion," and that he will "look upon it as one wherein the honour of the nation is as much concerned as the advantage of that particular merchant who owns the ship." (IV. 27.)

Lord Galway to Matthew Prior.

1698, May 12 [–22]. Dublin Castle.—Desires Prior to find out in the most secret and exact manner that he can if John Trant, eldest son of Sir Patrick Trant recently deceased, carried arms as a cadet or otherwise in the service of France or of King James, in the La Hogue expedition or on any other occasion. Will be obliged to be informed of every particular that can be discovered in the matter. Since his father's death Trant has taken the title of Sir John. *French. Signed.* (IV. 28.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, May 16[–26]. Whitehall.—"I have spoken to Mr. Montague about the increase of your allowance. He thinks the best way will be that the King order you the money to be paid quarterly or half-yearly without making any bills for it ; and if you approve of this, when the six months are ended I'll get a direction to the Treasury to pay you 350*l.* without account.

"I know not how long my Lord Ambassador will stay at Paris. If he be come away before this packet arrives, you will open the letter I send to him, it containing some matters that concern only the residing minister.

* *Cf,* Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State,* p. 27.

"I hope you have writ to one of the commanders of the yachts at Calais to bring over my Lord Manchester to Dover; the Admiralty have sent them orders to the same purpose. My Lord Portland, I hope, will have no disappointment by it, since the yacht is immediately to return." (IV. 29.)

Matthew Prior to John Ellis.

1698, May 27. [N.S.] Paris.—Giving news as to the case of the *Mary* sloop. "Cooper's case will be tried in a week's time by a Marine Court here. . . . As to the privateer, they utterly disown his having any commission from France: they have asked King James and found he has given no commission whatsoever this two years; and they have promised to send to their ports with order to arrest the pirate whenever he may come in, particularly to St. Malo's, of which place he most probably is, and to Bordeaux, of which he says he is." *Copy.* (XI. 86.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

[1698, June 3. N.S. Paris.]—Informing him of his discussions with Pontchartrain about the ships *Richard*, *Mary*, *l'Amérique* and *Shrewsbury*.

"I had one conversation with Brocard, and Jimmy told me after that the man was desirous of money, and that you had ordered him 50 pistoles. I did not find that Brocard in anything he had then said deserved it, so I advised Jimmy to give him twenty as all that he could well spare then, being upon his journey, and that Brocard might come to me, who would readily give him what you might order. I have not seen the man since. He said he was going to St. Germains and would communicate to me at his return something of consequence; though, methinks, he who said nothing when he went will not know a great deal at his return; and he that makes *la guerre à l'œil* is, as they say in this country, no very good soldier." *Copy.* (XI. 88–91.)

Pontchartrain to the Earl of Portland.

1698, June 4. [N.S.] Versailles.—The French King has been pleased to grant their liberty to the convicts on whose behalf Portland had solicited his favour, and orders have been sent to Marseilles to that effect: Campion will also be released from the Château d'If. Instructions have also been sent to the Governor of the French Islands in America to search for two men sent thither 1686, and to allow them to return to France. With regard to the five English prisoners at Dunkirk, His Majesty does not think it just to deprive the privateers of their ransom, and will give no consideration to the dictates of charity so long as certain Frenchmen are kept as hostages in England. *French. Signed.*

Enclosing Portland's memorial on behalf of twenty-three prisoners, with the replies of the French King. *French.* (XX. 149.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, May 25[–June 4]. Whitehall.—" I hope you will send us a list of all the prisoners that have been released on that side, and let me know whether any yet remains. You mention two ships to Mr. Ellis whose cases are ordered to be adjudged. I shall be glad to see a good determination made, and if you have demanded other ships which have not been released, you will let us know the reasons for it, that we may at least be furnished with expostulations for the French Ambassador, who would make me believe they carry their concessions almost beyond what is asked." (IV. 31.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, May 29[–June 8]. Whitehall.—" I am glad Brocard hath been with you. It is now time to see some effects of his undertaking; hitherto no great matter hath appeared, and yet I found he put a great value upon himself by his demands. I am very desirous to encourage him as far as he shall deserve it; and on the other side I should be very loath to pass for his dupe. On which account I am obliged to you that you have managed for me, and stinted my son in the sum he would have given him. When he gives you greater satisfaction, you will let him have the remainder, or a bigger sum. If it be necessary, I have a small allowance from the King for those purposes, and I desire only to know how to lay it out as may be best for his service. If this man doth not answer expectation, it is best to be plain with him, and let him know it. He hath bragged to me of his interest and the opportunities he had to be informed of all that passed. If we do not see the performances of it, we must doubt either of his abilities or good will. In some late letters I writ to Jemmy, I told him some particulars I would have him tried in; I do not doubt but you have seen the letters, and will put him to the test in those points or what other you think more proper.

" I leave you to act as you judge most advisable in this matter, and I will take care of your additional allowance, which I think will meet with no difficulty, Mr. Montague being so much your friend." (IV. 32.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

1698, June 9. [N.S.] Paris.—*Enclosing* papers as to claims in regard to release of prisoners, and other matters. " You must set a good example in England . . . if you would have a great many poor people freed that lie for hostages here, from whom I have daily such imperfect letters as these poor wretches can write, which show that they are abandoned by their owners in England, and mourn in captivity here. We shall soon see if the orders they promised to give will be

general: but by these memorials you will see that things do not go so currently as Comte Tallard would have you think; nor ought we to be too hasty in kindness with these people, excepting only in exterior civilities. The same law that governed the Jews is very proper for the French, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

"I have heard no more from Hogan. I grant you he is not a good clerk, but fear more from such sort of fellows than from wiser heads; and a hand may strike a dagger or shoot a pistol that cannot set its mark or make the two first letters of its name."

"They continue to say that the pirate was taken and hanged at Dublin: *accipio responsum;* but how do they know this without having had correspondence with him or his followers, or are they sooner informed from Dublin than we?

"I said in my last that I am perfectly satisfied with what you have determined as to my allowance, as I hope you are of the great sense I have of your favours." *Copy.* (XI. 92–95.)

Memorandum as to Davis.

1698, June [1–11].—"Mr. Hussy brought Colonel Burk to me, who said he had already told His Excellency what he had discovered of the fellow who called himself Davis, and of whom mention is made in my letter above April 11–21:* the Colonel says that this fellow Davis, though that be not his right name, quarrelling with some of his accomplices here in Paris was by them desperately wounded, and being, as he thought, near death, discovered to a priest that he, together with those accomplices with whom he had the misfortune to fall out, had been set on to feign the story which he had told to my Lord, and that the real design was to extorque from His Lordship money and a passport, and with the passport to go into England, where he (Davis) should swear that my Lord had given him money to accuse several persons of quality for holding correspondence with King James, and accordingly should produce the passport as having been given him by my Lord to facilitate his voyage into England for this purpose. Colonel Burk likewise added to me that Davis had said that there was a captain who had been with my Lord here in France who was in this damnable design, but the Colonel would not tell his name or say more of him than that he was in England, he thought, at present." *In Prior's hand.* (XI. 95.)

Vernon's Conference with the French Ambassador.

1698, June 1[–11].—"The French Ambassador renewed his demands about the 100*l.* taken from the master of a French vessel at Plymouth.

* See the letter of April 25, N.S., 1698, p. 211, *supra, ad fin.*

" I told him I understood by Mr. Montague that they had given directions for restoring the money, the King having ordered it ,though it was confiscable, as being contrary to law to carry such a sum out of the kingdom.

" I took notice to the Ambassador how ready His Majesty was to give back to the French what was forfeited upon the Ambassador desiring it, and to show besides how frankly His Majesty dealt with them, he did not so much as think fit to demand of them a sum of 70*l.* that a master of a vessel lately released in Portugal by His Majesty's order (even before it was reclaimed) owned to be due and promised the payment of it, but went away without doing it. The French Ambassador at Lisbon being acquainted with it took little care to oblige him to be just, though he knew the money was owing for the care that was taken of the ship and for maintaining seven of their own seamen.

" The Ambassador desired a memorial of it ; and said he would write into France to have the master seized, and that speedy justice should be done. I answered that I did not tell it him by way of complaint : His Majesty had reimbursed the English envoy who laid down the money, and I only mentioned it occasionally that he might see in what manner the King dealt towards them in such things as depended immediately on himself, though perhaps in other matters, that must necessarily be decided by the laws, he could not alter the forms established.

" The Ambassador mentioned again the ship that was plundered at Penzance, that I promised the Vice-Admiral should write into Cornwall to get reparation made them, or otherwise that the offenders should be prosecuted at law, and His Majesty would give the directions for it. I told him I had performed my part, that the Vice-Admiral had writ, but the criminals stood it out and were not like to make a voluntary satisfaction. I had likewise spoke to the Judge of the Admiralty, who hath the cognizance of those offences, and he told me the way I should proceed, in which I intended to have followed, till one who solicits for that ship showed me a letter from their agent in Cornwall, giving an account that they had arrested two of the men that plundered the ship and put them in prison. I told him I was well satisfied with what they had done, but as they had now brought the business into the common law, it must remain there, and all I could do was to recommend it to my Lord Chief Justice Holt, who went that circuit, which I have since done.

" As for the ship seized in the Isle of Wight that was caught smuggling, the Ambassador is very willing that prosecution should go on, and he now finds fault with the master and owner of the ship for telling him things backward and forward.

" He had formerly mentioned a small privateer, the *Levrette*, taken by an English ship since the Peace, and cast

away near Sandwich, which he represented as maliciously done and therefore demanded satisfaction. I told him the Judge of the Admiralty had examined that matter and found the fact to be otherwise; but if they found themselves aggrieved, the Judge said the law would decide it. The Ambassador now desists from that demand.

"He mentioned something of a ship brought into Rye since the Peace, but gave a very imperfect account of it. I told him I thought it was some old business that had been long since determined. He said he would inform himself more fully of it.

"He spoke about Jennings; he knew the King's order was issued for his release, but the gaoler kept him for his fees and money due for diet and lodging. I said I had nothing to do with his debts, and wondered his father, who had solicited his liberty and knew it was granted, should not send him wherewithal to bring him over. However, I, having been acquainted with the stop put, had sent to the gaoler to be very moderate and easy in it, and I understand he will be so.

"As to Captain Macdonnell, whose liberty he demanded, I told him the King had not yet signed the warrant, but I thought he would do it.

"He said he had not yet the names of the four Irish prisoners who have their wives at St. Malo's: I thought that strange after having demanded them so long since. I told him that I heard of persons in Newgate who solicited him, and took it ill they were not put into his list, but he took little notice of it.

"He spoke of six Frenchmen that were kept in prison here on account of a false commission, they having one only endorsed by the Court of Vice-Admiralty at Dunkirk. I told him they were condemned as pirates for want of a sufficient commission, but, however, I would lay it before the King, and if those we demanded were released from the galleys, I thought the King might be inclined to pardon these men and send them away.

"He spoke of one Chevalier Blancard who was lately taken up by a messenger, and desired to know whether it was for any crime of State. This is a person whom the French Ministers are scandalised at: he is come hither under pretence of turning Protestant, but they find him addicted to all manner of debauchery; they suspect him of treasonable designs, but I do not see any proof they have. I told the Ambassador some of the crimes he was accused of were too gross to mention. He said those might be matters fitter for putting him into the hands of a confessor than into the clutches of the law.

"He magnified the dispatch they gave to everything in France, and would have put the contrary upon us, but that I could not yield by what appeared hitherto." (IV. 34.)

JAMES VERNON to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, June 3[–13]. Whitehall.—" His Majesty hath ordered Captain Macdonnell's warrant to be delivered out, so that he will have his liberty as well as Jennings. If we had had any account of the pirate's being executed at Dublin or elsewhere, I should not have failed to give Your Excellency notice of it, but by what they report concerning him I find the ship is returned into France with the greatest part of the crew, and some of them being left behind they conclude they are taken and hanged; and that would have been their fate if there had not been a great remissness in those who once had them in their hands. The case, I hear, is thus: the pirate having taken a merchant-ship in the Irish seas, they put six of their own men into her, who, being separated from the pirate by stress of weather, were run ashore in Scotland near Kirkcudbright, where they were all secured. I gave notice of it to Sir James Ogilvie, who writ into Scotland about it. He could at first hear no account of them, for either the Scots had let them go or they had broke prison, and they intended to suppress the knowledge of it, lest they should be brought to answer it; but since Sir James hath been informed of their negligence or corruption, and intends to have them prosecuted. In the meantime the rascals are escaped; there was but one of them who would own his name, and he called himself Macartny. If the story they tell in France of the captain's being hanged could be traced to the first authors, it would appear that it comes from the pirates themselves, and if they will hang them they may, but nobody else hath it in their [*sic*] power.

" I send Your Excellency an account of a conference I have had with the French Ambassador, by which you will see what readiness there is here to gratify him in all his demands; and yet he can hardly forbear telling us that we are dilatory, if not evasive. One thing I must add which I did not know of then, that the six French he solicited for, who had a faulty commission from the Vice-Admiralty of Dunkirk, were discharged at an Admiralty Sessions which hath been lately held.

" The King hath stayed in town all this week, and I do not hear when he thinks of going to Windsor. The Swedish Ambassador is desirous to have his audience of *congé*, which he will have at Kensington on Tuesday next; he desires it only in private.

" His Majesty stays here to press on the businesses now depending in Parliament which seem to require looking after. The East India Company have raised a great clamour that a notorious injustice hath been done them by the project of subscriptions, insomuch that the first proposer is almost made uneasy with it. This hath brought on the resolution of going into a committee to-morrow to consider the state of that matter. I do not see how there can be any accommodation,

but either the Company must be dissolved at three years' end or the new proposal be laid aside, and I know not where else two millions can be found.

"There is another thing started here which is not very agreeable, viz., the calling for the lists of the Army disbanded and to be disbanded. Mr. Blathwayt unawares gave the occasion for putting it into an address by saying he should be ready with the lists when he had orders for it, whereupon it was said, since they understood there was a difficulty in it, they must address for it. I know not whether the address hath yet been delivered, but if the lists be brought before them, we shall have the old dispute revived about reducing the forces to 10,000 men.

"The ceremony was performed on Monday last of the delivering back the King of Sweden's Garter, and the Duke of Newcastle had the Garter given him at the same time.

"Mons. Tallard would introduce an innovation which the other foreign ministers do not intend he shall enjoy alone. It seems the practice hath been that when the King comes to St. James's Chapel, no coaches are admitted into the court but His Majesty's; but of late Mons. Tallard hath come in twice or thrice with his coach. The Swedish Ambassador and the Emperor's Envoy taking notice of it as a mark of distinction he would give himself, they think it as much their due, if it be allowed to him. His Majesty is of the same opinion that it belongs to one as much as the other, but he did not know that either the French Ambassador's coach came in, or that others forbore it. I acquainted my Lord Marlborough with it to-day, who said he would speak to the Prince and Princess about it. As it is a small court and not fit for a rendezvous of coaches while the King is there, my Lord Marlborough thinks the guard should come within the gate, as being a more proper station for them, and then it will be visible there will be no room for coaches." (IV. 39.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698,] June 5–15. Londres.—"J'ay bien receu la vostre du 10me. Si Mons. le Grand [Ecuyer] est retourné à Paris, je vous prie de luy faire bien des compliments pour moy, et de donner l'enclose à Mons. le Comte de Nassau. Nostre Gouverneur est courtisan plus qu'ami, et il n'est pas sorcier à ce que je crois; et ces sortes de gens si on leur ostoit une certaine routine du monde, il ne leur resteroit que très peu de chose. Je vous asseure que je croy que Monsieur se trompe et que tout ne se raccommodera pas." (IV. 42.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, June 8[–18]. Whitehall.—"I have seen Mons. Tallard only *en passant:* he had something to complain of about the behaviour of our packet-boat crew at Calais; he was beginning

to tell it me as he came out of the King's closet, and I was called in before he had concluded. I hope it is something that may keep cold; however, in the meantime I have writ to Mackye, that I may be better prepared against the charge.

"The Ambassador demands of us the restitution of a Dunkirk vessel called the *Alexander* which was taken since the 22nd of September; they say a day or two before. Sir Charles Hedges tells me she was condemned in the Admiralty Court the 7th of October, there being no proclamation then issued about the Peace, or any notice given when hostilities were to cease; he adds that if the French had appealed, as they ought to have done, they would have found relief, but through that neglect the ship has been disposed of; he does not now see how they can have satisfaction, unless they are admitted to bring an appeal after a lapse of so much time. All I can do is to lay it before His Majesty if he pleases to give any directions upon it. In the meantime the claimers have drawn up a notarial act by way of protest, which I do not yet comprehend the meaning of." (IV. 40.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, June 14[–24]. Whitehall.—"I am very glad to hear the good news that the King will double your allowance, which will enable you a little better to bear the extravagant rates you pay at Paris."

"I hope the plate will come safe to you, it having been some days in Mr. Lowman's hands." (VIII. 303.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, June 21[–July 1]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Tucker, being out of the secretaries' office, is seldom in town, so that it is very rarely that I see him; but if you would have me send to Mr. May about your money, I will.

"Your stay in France is not longer than I expected when you first went over, for I did then believe you would not return in many months, and I believe you are now in for all my Lord Jersey's time. I hear from all hands how dear a place Paris is, but notwithstanding, you uphold the honour of Old England. Whether you do yourself right in it or not I will not pretend to judge; I am sure it hurts nobody else." (VIII. 305.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, June 22[–July 2]. Whitehall.—"I deferred acknowledging your letter of the 15–25 inst. till Brown, the messenger, was ready to return, having nothing to acquaint you with but the arrival of my Lord Portland, who came hither on Sunday last. My Lord hath been ever since so taken up with compliments and visits that I have not had any opportunity of seeing him in private.

"The French Ambassador is likewise very quiet of late, so that we have had nothing to trouble one another with."

"I am afraid my Lord Jersey will not be going so soon as was expected, I do not doubt but you have heard that he hath been seized with a fever; but I think he is now recovered. I find Brocard hath not come near you of late, which I a little wonder at. If he keeps away because you are not one to be imposed on, I ought not to be sorry for it.

"The enclosed for the Duchess of Portsmouth is from my Lord Romney; I know not who sends the other to Colonel Codrington." (IV. 43.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, July 3. [N.S.] Paris.—"The messenger that brought the last letters tells me he saw Your Excellency under sail, so I hope this will find you after your having been some days at Kensington, and tired with the congratulations of those who are glad to see you safe returned.

"I have given the 100 *louis* as you ordered, and the person is extremely well satisfied and promises his best endeavours to deserve your kindness.

"Madam Mayercron will, I believe, tell Your Excellency that your people had forgot to put up some tea which you had promised to the Duchess of Lude; I sent her by Madam Mayercron a pound that I had, as in your name, and all is well; I find by the great value she sets upon it that some more of that kind would not be unacceptable to her; if Your Excellency will send some by any messenger that comes hither, I will take care to give it to her *de la manière qu'il faut.*

"The first of July being come, my Lord Paston's creditors broke upon me like a storm. I have paid them all, and send Mr. Van Leeu[w]en the several accounts; I have not heard one word of his man Froment, who was to bring his money.

"The court continues still at Marli; King James and his wife supped with the King there on Monday.

"The Mareschal de Villeroy was in town on Sunday; he told me he had letters from Your Excellency from the frontiers, and gave me to understand how well you had been treated wherever you came, which was all so truly French that I could hardly forbear laughing; he stopped his coach to tell me this in the Cours de la Reine, and made a hundred other coaches stop likewise whilst he talked with me. This, Your Lordship knows, is so like the man that I cannot forbear telling it to you. I went to wait upon him the next morning; they told me he lay at a little house he has somewhere without Paris, and saw no company in the morning, everybody leaving their name with the porter at his great house, as I likewise did, it not being my business to enquire more exactly where he lay or with whom.

"I hear he is a little jealous that the Mareschal de Boufflers is to teach the Duke of Burgundy the art of war at Compiègne, and the camp is to be augmented by 18 battalions more than was contained in my list. I hear likewise the King will only go thither but make no great stay when he is there, Madam de Maintenon being afraid that exercise may bring his fits upon him.

"Mons. d' Herbaut goes from hence in few days for England; one Argaut goes with him as a kind of Adjutant or *commis*, this latter has been *Commissaire de Marine* at Bayonne, and was before the war with Mons. de Bonrepaux in the like employment.

"The causes of ships taken since the Peace (of which Your Excellency gave in the memorials) being to be examined this day, I waited yesterday upon Mr. D'Arguisseau, who is ordered to report them, and represented to him the reasonableness of their being discharged, and the owners freed from the expence and trouble of such suits. I shall know the effect of his reports in a day or two, and according to my duty I shall represent them to Your Excellency and to Mr. Secretary.

"Colonel Burk was with me yesterday; he told me a story that surprises me; he says that a friend of his newly come from England tells him that he was in company with one of his intimate acquaintance, and was told by that acquaintance that he had been in company with Colonel Stanhope, and that Stanhope had said that he would be revenged of my Lord Portland for the usage he had given him at Paris; and desired this man to enter into measures with him in order to form something that might prejudice your reputation; this is the subject [*sic*] of what Burk yet knows. I encouraged him to be more particular in the enquiry, and to inform me what methods these people were to use in order to bring their project to pass, and to find out from Davis by whom and upon what account he had been encouraged to act the part he lately had done, and if we can find out that Davis acted in concert with the man of whom Burk speaks, I shall do my best to get to the bottom of this business." *Copy.* (XI. 98–102).

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, July 3. [N.S.].—"Sir Charles Hedges is a little quick in condemning a ship in his Admiralty Court, the 7th October, upon a supposition that it was not then known when hostilities were to cease: for I arrived at Whitehall the 14–24th September; and the 26th, which was the first day after that the Lords Justices met, the Peace was published, and, if I do not mistake, the next day printed. Now, with what measure you mete, shall it be measured unto you, is an admirable maxim as well in politics as Christianity."

"The King has named 18 battalions of foot to be added to those of which I have sent you the list. The review will

not be so soon as August 20. The officers are forbid to make expensive habits, and we take that prohibition to be a mark that a considerable review will be made. After the review I hear the King will at most make a turn thither, Madam Maintenon having dissuaded him from too much fatigue, which would bring his fits, to which he is subject, upon him."

"I hope you have received my Lord Portland with all the honour he has deserved. They say here he is going into Spain to help them to settle the succession there: if there be anything in it, pray inform me, and hasten away my Lord Jersey." *Copy.* (XI. 103–105.)

The Earl of Galway to Matthew Prior.

1698, June 24[–July 4]. Au Château de Dublin.—After thanking him for other favours, "J'ay aussi à vous remercier de la peine que vous vous êtes donnée sur le sujet de John Trant. Les éclaircissemens que vous me donnez suffisent; il n'est pas besoin d'en chercher d'autres.

"My Lord Portland est en Angleterre. Il vous à laissé tout le poids des affaires à soutenir; vous êtes très capable de le faire comme il faut, mais je ne laisse pas de souhaiter que vous en soyez bientôt déchargé pour venir goûter avec nous le repos qu'on trouve dans le changement de travail." *Signed.* (IV. 45.)

John Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1698, June 26[–July 6]. Lillingstone Dayrell.—Stating that he has desired Mr. May to send Prior some money. As to the proportion of the salary which Prior and May ought to receive, he is unwilling to arbitrate, being a friend to both of them, until he has heard from them how much each considers just. (IV. 46.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, June 28[–July 8]. Whitehall.—"I have heard nothing of my Lord Portland's expedition into Spain or of any other ambassador's going thither. The obstructions are not yet removed out of the way since His Majesty hath had no satisfaction given him in the business of Schonenberg:* they declare they will admit him to his functions, but they have not yet done it, and instead thereof they would have their ambassador first called to Court, or at least that a day be fixed when all shall be admitted on both sides. But His Majesty sticks to the accommodation proposed, that the suspension be first taken off where it was first laid.

"I dined with the French Ambassador yesterday at my Lord Steward['s], where we had such a *repas* as I suppose you were used to while you had my Lord Portland on your side. I carried him a message in the morning which was

* *Cf.* Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, pp. 411, et seq.

much less agreeable to him; you will see it in the enclosed. The foreign ministers run immediately into conferences upon it, but the French Ambassador, seeing they were like to be warm enough of themselves, left them to manage the controversy, and told them he was not concerned at present, his chapel not being yet opened or finished. This he took an occasion to tell me at my Lord Devonshire's after he had bethought himself, but when I made him the first communication none of them showed themselves more impetuous; and he thought he saw a mystery in it that nobody else ever dreamt of, as if this were solely aimed against him, and he was laying abundance of things together, that this should happen so soon after my Lord Portland's arrival and just before his chapel was to be opened. However, he was so plain with me as to tell me that he was to have or had six chaplains, one of which was an *aumônier* he brought from France: the rest were English or Irish, and he set a value upon his great circumspection in the choice of them, and almost thought it too much since he met with this return. I appeased him as well as I could, telling him I was in hopes to find him the least surprised of any, since he saw my Lord Portland's caution; how careful he was not to do anything that might shock the laws or give any offence to those that were zealous for their religion established; that there could be nothing particularly designed to him; his chapel not being open, there could be no complaint of a resort thither; and he being advertised beforehand would consider what he had to do. He said he should write that evening to Court, and return an answer as he should be directed from thence.

"I hope you will not hear them cry out there of our persecutions. I am sure the utmost of our severities will be goodness and mercy compared with theirs.

"I have spoke to my Lord Portland about your allowance, who will heartily join in it. He sent me the enclosed the day after Brown was gone, and did not think it of consequence enough to dispatch another messenger with it." (IV. 48.)

Enclosure.

Endorsed:—"Orders about Foreign Ministers received with Mr. Vernon's letter of the 28th."

"Great notice having been taken in what numbers the Roman Catholics resort to the chapels of foreign ministers, insomuch that it was grown a public offence and scandal that the laws were so openly affronted, His Majesty found himself obliged to apply some remedy for preventing greater inconveniences; and accordingly I was directed to go to all the foreign ministers of the Romish persuasion to know what was the number of their chaplains and what countrymen they were, and to let them understand His Majesty found it necessary to take some course for preventing that resort to their chapels, but in such a manner as their

privileges should be untouched, and to give them notice that, if any of His Majesty's subjects were entertained by them as their chaplains, they should dismiss them, the law not allowing them to perform the functions of priests in England. When I delivered them the message, they pretended to be surprised at it as if it were an innovation, though the same thing was signified to them within these three years immediately after the Assassination Plot was discovered, and the like was done by King Charles in '78, and the messengers were then sent to observe the Roman Catholics who went to the Popish chapels, and seized them coming out. The foreign ministers having taken so little notice of the former intimations given them creates a necessity for the renewing them, since they have no other chaplains now but what are English or Irish except one *aumônier* that some of them only brought with them, and the number in some of these houses is very extraordinary. The Portugal Envoy alone hath ten chaplains, and nine of them are His Majesty's subjects. Count d'Aversberg and Mons. Hoffman have four apiece, and none of them foreigners. The French and Spanish Ambassadors have six each, and but three foreigners between them. They know very well how intolerable this would be, and how severely resented in their countries; and yet we must expect they will blow up a noise of persecution, when, if it were considered aright, it is their indiscretion and disregard to our laws that raises a clamour in our own people against the remissness of the Government, and all that is intended is to make the Papists sensible that the way to preserve the indulgence used towards them is by making a moderate and discreet use of it." (IV. 49.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, July 9. [N.S.] Paris.—"I went yesterday to Versailles and waited upon the Ministers Messieurs Pomponne and Torsi as to the affairs of the *réfugiés*, particularly of my Lord Gallway, Mons. de la Forest,* etc. I let them know that Your Lordship had left me order to enquire if His Most Christian Majesty had been as favourable as we had reason to hope; they answered me in their way with a great deal of civility which signifies nothing, that Mons. de Tallard was already informed of what this King had answered, and, by what they added, I find that nothing more has been done in it since Your Lordship went away; I shall obey your orders in what manner I am to solicit this affair.

"I next asked their answer to the memorial Your Excellency gave in the 3rd of June, which was that the French had charged oil which came from Tunis to Marseilles with a duty of 20 per cent. as coming from the Levant; they said that they had already sent Count Tallard an answer to this case; that upon their tariff all Barbary has always been comprehended in the Levant.

* *Cf.* Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, pp. 35, 37, 40.

"I gave in a memorial for the liberty of six *réfugiés* now in the galleys, who were of the Danish troops in His Majesty's pay, and for a native of Orange who had deserted the French service. They have promised to send to Marseilles that these people shall be released, and that those shall likewise be so for whom Your Lordship gave in your last memorial; the Brigadier and five of the Regiment of Gallway, who have been prisoners at Dunkirk, are actually at liberty, and one of them has been with me.

"As to the two merchant-ships taken since the Peace and reclaimed by Your Excellency, Mons. d'Aguisseau is commissioned with some other of the marine to look into this matter and to report it, but their proceedings are so dilatory that as yet we have no positive answer. This I took the liberty to represent at large to Messieurs Pomponne and Torsi; I told them that the proprietors themselves or any private persons might have justice according to the ordinary forms of law, but that Your Excellency's memorial was to expedite and cut short all these delays, and that, since we did in England all that lay in our power of this kind to satisfy Count Tallard, we had reason to hope the same from them.

"Of all this I acquaint Mr. Secretary Vernon.

"I waited upon the Marshals Villeroy and Boufflers: the former of these talked with me a good while about the affairs of England, about the Bill for raising the two millions, and if we were not to reform our troops? I let him see that as to the two millions it might easily be raised by several imposts which I named, or that more might be raised as the occasions of the nation required. He asked me then what made the session so long? and insisted mightily upon it. I let him understand from passages in their own gazettes that it was that particular affairs were mingled with those of the public, and that the Parliament was rather about the manner how the thing should be done with most ease to the subject, than if it should be done, all parties agreeing in this latter point. I gave our desiring to keep up some troops this turn, that it was rather that we would be grateful to the officers and soldiers that had served so well than that we should have any real necessity for them, that as far as I could judge from England, as everybody was entirely satisfied with the Peace, so my Lord Portland and the English that have been here since the making it might see by everything that His Most Christian Majesty designed absolutely the maintaining it. This pleased him; '*vous parlez avec raison, Monsieur,*' *me dit il.* But I thought just the contrary.

"I likewise saw the Duchess of Lude, Madame Mayercroon having given me a letter for that purpose; I excused my not waiting upon her with the tea, Madame Mayercroon having charged herself with it. She returns Your Lordship thanks, and was very glad to hear of your safe arrival.

"In my return home I waited upon Monsieur and Madame at St. Cloud; they asked about Your Excellency's return with all the kindness imaginable; Monsieur mentioned a picture of His Majesty which you had sent him.

"Bussy is returned hither; he exclaims mightily against us, and gives the worst impressions imaginable of the *réfugiés* in England; he is a blustering fellow, and amongst people of note here I am afraid his talking will hinder the good effects we hope from Your Excellency's intercession for those I mentioned in the beginning of my letter; and it would have been better that he had been hanged as well as Fromand.

"King James's wife being at Chaillot, the children whom they call the Prince of Wales and the Princess of England came thither to see her on Monday last. Some of the English here went, as a great many more did, to see the Prince and Princess at their coming out. I desired Mr. Hopkins to go likewise, which he did with Colonel Codrington. As the child came out, Hopkins retired a little, Codrington stood his ground, neither of them shewing him the least mark of respect. But one Twisdel or Twisden, who came here with a knight of the same name and his relation since Your Excellency went, and whom I have suspected for several reasons to be of that party, though he would have disguised it, was seen by my Lord Perth in the crowd, who said to his Lady, 'Madam, there is Mr. Twisden'; and putting the Prince forward to him, Twisden knelt down and kissed his hand. Hopkins did not actually see him kiss his hand, but I am informed from other hands that the matter of fact is true. The young man endeavours to stifle it, his father being a man of estate in England who is already suspected to lean too much that way.

"I have a thing of much greater consequence to impart to Your Excellency. Braconie[r] was with me to-day, he tells me he is assured from the correspondent that orders are given for six men-of-war from forty to fifty guns, who have biscuit for six months and corn for eighteen, and six hundred mariners (soldiers) and forty-five engineers, master-masons and others, who understand to govern flat boats, for a descent; that these ships are ordered from Havre, Port Louis, Rochfort, and one from Dunkirk; that their rendezvous is to be at the Canary Islands, from whence they are to go through the Straits of Magellan into the South Sea to the coast of Chili and Peru. The place where this debarkment is intended he does not know, but says they are assured of some Spaniards who had rather be under the French government than under that of their own countrymen, and that they are to be joined by a considerable number of these people to land, fortify and possess themselves of the mines.

"I have another correspondent that says in the main the same thing, augmenting only the number of vessels to 12,

and adding that particular persons furnish all the expense except the common allowance which the King of France gives the ships of war. Your Excellency will judge of the great consequence of this affair to us.

"The Count d'Estrée[s] takes his leave of the Court in a day or two; he goes to Brest, and is to command a squadron of ten men-of-war in the Mediterranean. I yesterday at Court asked by way of news, and lightly, what these squadrons were to do. They pretend it is only to continue their navigation and breed their officers; and others say that it is to secure their merchants from being affronted (as they have lately been) by the Sally men.

"Letters from Madrid of the 19th say that the French Ambassador has told the King of Spain the same thing; that monarch is not in so good health as the letters received here would make us believe." *Copy.* (XI. 106–113.)

J. Van Leeuwen to Matthew Prior.

1698, June 29[–July 9.] *Catherine* Yacht between Calais and Dover.—"His Excellency came last night at nine at Calais, and went on board this morning at six with very fine weather, but little wind. We hope to be on shore at Dover by two in the afternoon. I had no time to send you from Calais my little journal of what passed in His Excellency's progress, but you may expect it as soon as I come to London, or sooner if I have time at Dover to copy it there."

"His Excellency gave Pigault a gold watch of Tompion's for his good services. When we went out [of] Calais, my Lords Westmoreland and Raby were in bed and fast asleep; His Excellency would not stay for their Lordships, and so left them ashore, making sail without them."

Postscript.—"Dover, 4 the clock in the afternoon. Just now His Excellency is landed, and goes this evening to Canterbury, and will be to-morrow night at Kensington." (IV. 51.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698,] June 29[–July 9] [*sic*]. Kensington.—"Je vous remercie des lettres que vous avez pris la peine de m'escrire depuis mon départ. J'espère que vous continuerez à me donner quelque fois de vos nouvelles. Je vous prie de donner ces deux lettres en main propre, et de vouloir demander à Br[aconier] les réponses au choses dont je lui avois parlé, et a Mons. de Palmquist* de me vouloir envoyer l'estat de la réforme, et des troupes qui restent en service. Vous aurez appris par d'autres que le tout c'est très bien passé dans le Parlement aujourdhuy, lequel apparemment se séparera bientost."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 17 of July, 1698." (IV. 50.)

* *Cf.* Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, p. 86.

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698,] July 2–12. Kensington.—"Depuis mon retour en ce pais je n'ay pas eu le loisir de vous escrire comme je l'aurois souhaitté, mais le Parlement, ayant fini les affaires, se séparera apparemment dans deux ou trois jours, et puis j'auray plus de temps à moy. Je suis bien aise que vous ayez eu la civilité de donner vostre thée à Madame la Duchesse du Lude, je vous en renvoyeray d'autre, et n'oublieray pas cette dame comme mon valet de chambre a fait. Ce n'est peut-estre pas sans raison que M[adame] M[aintenon] craint un trop long séjour à Compiègne. Les compliments du Mareschal lui sont très naturels, il faut lui en rendre le triple, et en faire beaucoup d'autres aux gens qui m'ont fait tant d'honestetez. Je vous prie de me mander un peu des nouvelles de la Cour de temps à autre, car je ne vous croy pas autrement occupé. Je suis surpris dans ce que vous me mandez du discours de Burck touchant Colonel Stanhope ; il n'est pas imaginable qu'un homme soit capable de cela. Je vous prie de vous en informer plus exactement. Je croy que le voyage du Roy pour la Hollande sera bientost fixé." (IV. 52.)

J. Van Leeuwen to Matthew Prior.

1698, July 2[–12]. Kensington.—"I received your kind letter with the enclosed list of what sums you paid for my Lord Paston. I am much concerned you have been so cruelly disturbed at the 1st of this month [N.S.] : if Madam Galpin has been among the crowd, you have no reason to complain of the company that morning, for she could make amends for the rest you did not like so well. I should be very glad to be attacked in this manner, supposing such an agreeable woman was one of the creditors."

Requests Prior to advance the money "to buy a waistcoat for Mr. Hemingh (who designs to be married shortly) *à la Teste d'Or* " and a "tortureshell case studyed for a watch" costing six *louis d'or*. Lord Portland "desires you will send his picture over as soon as it is finished, and that care may be taken that it can't be damnified by the way." (IV. 53.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, July 2[–12]. Whitehall.—"I have told you the message I carried to the French Ambassador as well as the other ministers, as also his answer that he did not think himself concerned at present, his chapel not being yet open, and I do not expect it will be till he hears from home. I suppose they will hardly direct him to keep English or Irish priests, unless they intend my Lord Jersey shall bring as many Huguenot ministers with him to Paris." (IV. 54.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, July 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"I did myself the honour last post to lay before Your Excellency the sea preparations

these people are making. I send another messenger with this, for I shall not venture to trust anything of this kind by the ordinary post, being very well assured that some letters of mine have been opened between Calais and this place (but there was nothing in them but some trifles of my own concerns), and that I have received no letters that have not been served so, except those which the messengers have brought, and those which have been directed to me from Pigaut in his own hand.

"The King of Spain is mighty ill, he has had fainting fits, which is an excess of weakness and vomiting whatever he eats. As he is kept alive by art, he certainly cannot hold out long.

"The squadron for the Mediterranean will be much greater than I sent Your Lordship word; though it is not distinctly said how many ships are destined for that service, it is certain that those which can come from Brest with those that may join them from Toulon may make a very considerable squadron, amounting (as far as I can hear) to about thirty or thirty-two ships in all, besides twenty-eight galleys. Orders are likewise given at Toulon and Brest for the fitting up and examining all the cordage and sails in these two ports, so that they may be immediately ready for service, and these squadrons, either that for the Mediterranean or that for the Indies, may be augmented without further trouble than the Court's sending a new order.

"The Count d'Estrées, the Marquis de Nesmond and the Marquis de Langeron command and are already at Brest; it is no great matter to add that Mr. [Henry] FitzJames, whom they call the Duke of Albemarle, is likewise of this expedition. Their designing this squadron against the Sally men is a jest; six or eight good ships would be sufficient for that service, and they would not send a Vice-Admiral and two Lieutenant-Generals upon an affair of so small consequence. The Marquis d'Estrées goes into Poitou to keep the new converts in obedience, as they say; but would they employ a Marshal of France in a work which belongs to a captain of dragoons? Your Lordship will judge that the design of his being there is that he is so much nearer Spain and in more readiness to head the troops on that side upon occasion.

"The Intendant of Lyons has passed vast quantities of corn into Provence and Languedoc under the names and seemingly on the account of particular persons. Your Lordship knows what troops are in Catalonia and Piedmont, and that most of them are foot; amongst the officers of these troops it is only some peculiar favourites who have leave to be absent from their posts, and for those the furthest *congé* they have is but till the latter end of October.

"Why should the Marquis d'Harcourt with such violence and just at this juncture desire leave for the French vessels and galleys to be received into the ports of Spain? and why

should the Spaniards be so difficult in granting it, if they thought it was intended only for their goods ?

"This camping at Compiègne is but an amusement, that by looking at their forces there we may take less notice of what they have dispersed elsewhere.

"Mons. Palmquist tells me, and so does the correspondent, that the only reform that is yet made in the foot is that the sick and five out of every company are disbanded : this is in effect but making their troops stronger, and I believe we shall see little more done in it till we know what becomes of this sickly Spanish Monarch. I wish to God that the business of Schonenberg were adjusted, and that our measures were taken as those of this Court most certainly are against that moment. Of this I have spoken to Messieurs d'Odyck and Heemskirk. I perceive they have written of it, though neither of them are [*sic*] so particularly informed as I have been from the correspondent, and it was not my business to speak to them what I knew in any other than in general terms, without your immediate order.

"My tutor Villeroy, who does me the honour sometimes to take me aside, has been mighty inquisitive upon our reforming and what our militia were. I augmented their number to two hundred thousand, and told him they were stout fellows well fed, and that had for four hundred years past had such a notion of liberty that they would die for their cause, good or bad, provided they thought it good. I said that in the revolution, these men being generally for the King (then Prince of Orange), we might have expected a battle or two with King James's forces in case they had not forsook him ; but by the Lieutenants' putting the militia in good order, we should have had no reason to have doubted of the liberty of the nations ; and let him know what Cromwell's troops, who were only these a little taught, had done at home, what Morgan's had done before Dunkirk, and what the English new-raised troops, who were actually the same men as the militia, had done this war in Flanders. I know not why he is so very curious ; possibly he has been talking with some of our friends at St. Germains on the same subject ; he ought, however, to have no other notion of that affair.

"It was but yesterday that I received Your Lordship's of the 22nd, or I should have sooner returned you my most humble thanks for it. I had letters from Mr. Vernon of the 28th, and the orders that His Majesty had been pleased to give for the regulation of the chaplains of foreign ministers ; I concealed my having notice of this order till I had an answer about two *réfugiés* in my Lord Jersey's family, for whom his Lordship desires a passport, and after I had that answer I said nothing of my having received any letters from England. Thus they will have the news thundering from Mons. Tallard. The answer I had was from Mons. de Torsi, that His Most Christian Majesty gave this leave for two persons

only, and that, too, in consideration of and as a favour to the Countess of Jersey; so I hope that business is done, for the King is too gallant to retract his civility to my Lady, upon account of the general order. Here they complain mightily of what the Roman Catholics suffer in Ireland, and yet they renew their persecution of the Protestants in the provinces with the greatest fury imaginable, obliging the *nouveaux convertis* to subscribe again, and to articles more severe than the former.

"The Court goes to-day to Marli, where it stays till next Thursday, and from thence till Saturday to Meudon; the King goes the 29th August to Compiègne, and returns the 8th of September; the 13th of September the contract will pass between the Duke of Lorraine and Mademoiselle; Queen James is going to the famous Abbey de Poissy for a day or two. Three or four fellows have been killed last week at St. Germains by their countrymen and comrades; one Charles O'Neal was broke upon the wheel on Monday for robbing about St. Germains on the highway. Your Lordship sees by the name that he is an Irishman; thus disorders and murders reign wherever this unhappy man lives, and his domestic affairs are governed just as his three kingdoms would have been.

"Burk has been with me again; he only repeats what I wrote to Your Lordship about the angry gentleman. Davis recovers, but I believe will be a rogue again for all his good promises when he was sick, that he would discover who set him about his villany; there can be nothing done with him but by fair means, for, if we act otherwise, we shall ruin the priest that revealed what he had told him in confession. I have promised to pardon him the 60 *louis*, and if he can make it out to me by undeniable testimony, and under the person's own hand (as he pretended he could), that some of considerable quality here were engaged in the affair, to give him as much more.

"The people at St. Germains are in heart again, God knows upon what grounds.

"Burk desires Your Lordship's favour as to his petition; he seems an honest man, and promises to deserve it in what he may.

"Bra[conier] asks your bounty as to himself, which, he says, he could not so well do to Your Lordship immediately in his own case; the correspondent at this time can give us better information than any man in France; therefore he cannot be too frequently encouraged.

"I have money of Your Lordship's in my hands, of which I shall give Mr. Leeu[w]en an account, or what [part] of it Your Lordship would have me expend for these sort of uses, I shall, according to your commands, out of what I have; I shall always do what I can; for it all is of His Majesty's bounty and goodness, and ought to be employed in his service.

Postscript.—"I have given your letter to D[uc de] Grammont *en main propre.* Madame Mayercroon has been very ill, and is gone into the country; she has the other." *Copy.* (XI. 114–122).

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, July 13[–23]. Whitehall.—"I approve very well of your method of writing everything to my Lord Portland at large, and you are very kind in sending me an extract of what you think proper for the office; I would by no means have you do it otherwise. On all accounts the correspondence ought to be directly with my Lord Portland, and he is the fittest person to receive and transmit His Majesty's directions upon all emergencies. You must very shortly write to him in Holland, but I hope you will spare us a sketch from time to time, that I may be able to inform the Lords Justices how affairs go."

"Mons. d'Herbaut* was with me on Sunday. The French Ambassador carried him to Kensington yesterday, where he made his compliment to the King. We are preparing the commission on our side, but cannot have all the commissioners that were at first intended, it not being proper to insert any of those who are to be our Lords Justices. I suppose my Lord Portland will still be one, though he be going over, together with my Lord Bridgewater and Lord Tankerville, who, being of the Council of Trade, have had a good deal of these matters under their inspection. The French Ambassador talks of going over with the King or very soon after him, so that, if we open the commission at present, it will be all. I find one Mons. d'Argaut who is come with Mons. d'Herbaut; he is not named in the commission. I can't tell, therefore, what his business should be unless he is an *instructeur du procès.*

"I should be glad to know what representation Mons. Tallard made of the message I carried him, and what orders were sent him upon it. All he hath said to me since is that the King should be satisfied in all his conduct.

"I hear the Spanish Ambassador hath sent a very peevish and senseless account of it to Brussels. He lives so like a monk himself that I do not wonder at his concern for them, but they ought a little better to know the genius of the Prince they are sent to, and the laws of the country they reside in, than to give mistaken information of both.

"I suppose the King will be going over about Tuesday next.

Postscript:—"The books for the subscription were opened about one o'clock, the commission being but then dispatched, and I hear that 500,000*l.* is already subscribed, and the first payment made. It goes on faster than was imagined. The East India Company have called a general court, at which

* *Cf.* Grimblot, *Letters of William III. and Louis XIV.*, ii. 84, 87, and Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation*, iv. 394—403.

it was resolved that they would leave it to their committee of fifty whether the company should subscribe or not. There is another roll lying on the table for those who are willing to be incorporated; all the subscribers hitherto have signed it, so that it is like to be a great stock by general consent." (IV. 59.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698,] July 14[–24]. Kensington.—" J'ay bien receu vostre très agréable du 5–15 de ce mois; il n'y a point de bonne foy à avoir celles que l'on n'envoye pas par exprès touttes ouvertes; il faut avoir soin de ne rien envoyer par ces voyes.

" C'est une force considérable que 32 vaisseaux en temps de paix, je croy que l'on n'en auroit pas tants de prêts si le Roi d'Espagne se portoit bien, quant on auroit le plus grand chagrin contre les Sallétins; et touttes ces dispositions d'hommes et de provisions fait voir assez clair quel est le desseyn, duquel je croy qu'il ne peut pas nuire d'en parler aux ambassadeurs d'Hollande, mais qu'il est utile qu'ils soyent advertis de ce que l'on doit craindre.

" Vous avez fort bien répondu, Monsieur, à vostre gouverneur, mais si vous faites des gasconnades trop grandes, et que qu'ils entendent d'ailleurs le contraire, l'on ne vous croira plus. Le tour que l'on donne au passeport pour les François en considération de Mylady Jersey est bien extraordinaire. Il semble qu'à St. Germain les nécessiteux se querellent comme si'ils avoi[en]t beaucoup d'argent à partager, tout comme Davies et ses compagnons: ce misérable prétent de vivre fripon et de mourir honeste homme. Je ne sçay comment cela se peut; je voudrois de tout mon cœur perdre les 60 guinées, moyenant qu'il me prouvait clairement qui estoi[en]t les autheurs et les complisses de ce desseyn contre moy. Par la prochaine poste je manderay ce que vous donnerez à Br[aconier]; je suis bien aise que vous ayez veu l'autre correspondant: je vous prie de savoir de ses nouvelles le plus souvent que vous pouvez. Je vous envoyeray par My-lord Jersey une bouteille de thée pour Madame la Duchesse du Lude et une autre pour vous, pour vous dédomager de celuy que vous luy avez donné. Je vous prie de faire bien des compliments à mes amis et particulièrement au Maréchal de Villeroy dont j'attents des nouvelles avec impatience."

" Nous partons Mardi prochain pour la Hollande, vers où il faudra m'escrire avec un peu de précaution et mettre mes lettres sous le couvert de quelque mar[chand]." (IV. 60–64.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1698, July 14[--24]. Whitehall.—" The subscriptions for our new East India Company fill beyond expectation.

" Sir Godfrey Kneller hath drawn at length the picture of your friend Jacob Tonson, which he shewed Mr. Dryden,

who desired to give a touch of his pencil, and underneath it writ these three verses :—

'With leering look, bull-faced, and freckled fair,
With frowsy pores, poisoning the ambient air,
With two left legs, and Judas-coloured hair.' "
(VIII. 313).

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, July 24. [N.S.] Paris.—" I have the favour of Your Excellency's letter of the 2–12. I am extremely obliged to your goodness in this and everything, and as it is my duty to write to you, so I have not the vanity to think that I ought to be answered otherwise than when Your Excellency transmits His Majesty's will or your own orders to me.

" The Court is at Meudon, from whence it does not return till Saturday. The only news amongst them is that the Duke d'Elbœuf is restored to favour after the chiding he had from the King about inviting the Duke of Lorraine hither without the King's order.

" I have been enquiring a little into the conduct of our friends at St. Germains ; one Glover, an engineer, who deserted our service in the beginning of the war, and who has been ever since in King James's, let me know privately that he had a mind to speak with me. The man teaches practical mathematics, and under that pretext comes to me, he has a great mind to deserve his pardon by anything he may do. He would attempt the drawing all the sea-ports in France, or anything else he might be ordered, to show he is sincere ; he tells very freely what he knows of everything. He says Hungate is here, and that he saw Brierly the other day. Amongst other things we fell upon the subject of the conspiracy, he told me some particulars which mightily confirms [*sic*] that King James knew it : viz., that Brierly had actually told him that King James had said to him (Brierly encouraging him in that hellish design) that their killing the Prince of Orange (as these people call His Majesty) at Richmond or Kensington was the same as if Villeroy had laid an ambuscade for him in Flanders, and that he, King James, had the opinion of the best doctors upon that point. You see, my Lord, that the old gentleman is a very excellent casuist ; another thing upon this subject is, Sir William Ellis t'other day, talking with a gentleman of my friends, was so angry when the gentleman talked with some suspicion of King James's being in the design, that he, going back to St. Germains at night, actually asked King James if he had ever seen a paper that was written in vindication of the conspiracy, to which King James indiscreetly blabbed out that truly he had seen such a paper, but did not read it ; and Sir William Ellis as indiscreetly told the same gentleman the next day what King James had said upon this subject. Glover likewise says that he has asked Saunders, King's James' confessor,

his opinion upon this point, and that Saunders did not condemn the assassination as intended.

"Another thing is very remarkable: when the thing was discovered, and these hell-hounds returned to Saint Germains, the Lord Middleton's party and the honester sort of these people would not keep these villains company, but called them conspirators and assassins; upon which they complained to King James, who gave order that these names should be no more heard, that they should all live in friendship together, and be well with these gentlemen who had had too much zeal for his service.

"What makes me so particularly insist upon this is that these villains go still upon the same principle that, King James not having made a peace with England, though France has, all that can be done against the King our Master by arms, public or private, is lawful. Brierly particularly says the business is not at an end yet. Brierly has studied at St. Omers, where he learned this good divinity, and King James received this case of conscience from that university. Ennis, the Scotch priest, I am credibly informed, sustains this doctrine amongst those whom he thinks he may trust.

"The reason why I repeat this at present to Your Lordship is that as well Glover as a correspondent, Your Lordship knows, Mr. Secretary Vernon employs, agree in this that the whole Court of St. Germains are in despair of succeeding any other way than by the horrid one of cutting off His Majesty, and that King James should offer a vast sum of money to the man and his family that should attempt it, or to be divided amongst them that shall undertake it: the Protestants themselves, being now desperate, give in to this. David Floyd, who was the fairest of them, is come in into these sentiments; the correspondent I mentioned has written the particulars he knows to Mr. Secretary Vernon in his own hand, which I send by this post.

"Mr. Manners with boldness enough, having had the honour to wait on you at Paris, came (I believe you remember) with some English gentlemen to Chantilly, and remained there as long as Your Excellency; he has since even in company exclaimed against the King our Master as fierce as the most violent of them; he has been with King James in private, introduced by Father Saunders, and was of the voyage to La Trappe, which is a peculiar favour; he is so violent a Papist that he is capable of the worst of impressions. The ladies with whom Mr. Hopkins has conversed of Br[aconier's] acquaintance are certainly going into England; others leave their house for that purpose the 15th of August.

"I would fain have somebody (that Your Lordship can wholly confide in) named, to whom Hopkins may give them a recommendation, that so it may be known to you what they do there; they are cunning whores, one as high-spirited as any of her sex, and as fit for mischief,

"They pretend to have quite broke off with the Duke of Berwick and those people, but all this seems to be too sudden not to be feigned: Your Excellency will be pleased to think of some person proper for this purpose that may receive and visit these ladies sometimes (if you think it worth the while): it must be a person of pleasure and gaiety, and money must be spent; I can think at this distance of nobody properer than Fielding.

"I shall exchange the ratifications for settling the post this afternoon, and detain the messenger till I have done so, that I may send it by this post for England.

"I have sent the letters which came in Your Lordship's packet to their several addresses, except that to the Président de Mesmes, which I do myself the honour to carry. Madam Mayercroon solicits the business of the Comtesse de Solre, upon whose account you are troubled with the enclosed paper.

"Br[aconier] tells me the correspondent tells him that the expedition for the West Indies is deferred for three weeks, though everything be ready; possibly it may be yet deferred three weeks after these three, till the King of Spain appears past all recovery. That king continues very ill; I think by all accounts he cannot live past autumn, for if they purge a thing that cannot eat, that thing must die.

"I troubled Your Lordship last post with a long letter upon this subject, and shall only add by this that everything looks very plain that France is alert against that occasion.

"Our friends at St. Germains had just told those at Marli (from letters they had from their correspondents by way of Holland) that the two millions would not be found, and that there were disorders in the Parliament which would hinder its raising for some time. I said nothing as if I had heard of this, but translated word for word His Majesty's speech, and told some of our friends the contents of my letters of the 2nd and 6th, which I had just then received; they would hardly believe it, till I shewed them the original printed in English, which I did *sans aucun empressement*, and with an air as if I did not much care if they believed it or no. They are all persuaded that the King is absolutely master of England, and can do in it whatever he pleases; *tant mieux*, it is best they should have that notion, for nothing else will keep them in any order.

"I have spoken to Burk since about Stanhope; I have no further particulars from him about that matter; if it was but a tavern bravado, that which is said in wine goes away with the fumes of it. Coddrington is Stanhope's friend; he is gone to London; I think he is a man of too much honour to conceal anything of this kind from your knowledge in case the other goes on in such extraordinary sentiments.

"Wherever I can be in lodgings I have Lord Clare, Dorrington, Birkenhead, or some of that gang, near me, for

which reason I have taken a little house. I repeat my thanks to Your Excellency for what regards my allowance; I am afraid I give you trouble in that matter. I never would importune His Majesty; that is best for me which his great wisdom thinks so, and I pretend nothing but to pass my life in his service." *Copy.* (XI. 131–9).

The Postmasters General to Matthew Prior.

1698, July 19[–29]. London.—"Yesterday morning we received the French ratification with M. Pajot's engagement, which is drawn to our satisfaction, and . . . . we have this day given public notice upon the Exchange that the mail will upon Thursday next begin to go for France and continue to do so every Monday and Thursday as before the war. We return you thanks for your great care and dispatch in this affair, though the satisfaction you must have in doing so public a service as the opening the correspondence betwixt the two nations must be much greater than any acknowledgements we can make you for it." *Signed*, R. Cotton. Tho. Frankland. (XX. 45.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

[1698, July 30. N.S. Paris].—"I had the favour of your letter of the 13th yesterday morning just before I went to Versailles. Tuesday is the ordinary day that ministers go thither. I have not heard the least word at this Court how they resent the message you carried to Count Tallard. I solicit the dispatch of the passport which the King granted upon my Lady's account for my Lord Jersey's two *réfugiés*, and was answered so civilly that I believe I shall have it to send away by this post, which shews that either they do not look upon our proceedings as extraordinary, or think it best to conceal their dislike of them. I have pleaded to the Catholic ministers here, such as Venice, Tuscany, Genoa, Savoy (who being at Versailles spoke of this) the reasonableness of our acting in this manner, that these priests were pointed at not as being chaplains but traitors and rebels; that in short they were the King's subjects and did not own his government. The Venetian was very much of my side, and cried out, '*Diable m'emporte, vous avez raison*,' though the Nonce sat next to him.

"One Glover, as you will see by the enclosed letter, gives me an account of two resolute fellows gone from hence by way of Holland to Scotland as they pretend; I believe you will think proper to give order that they be apprehended, if they are found in Scotland, as I have written to Brussels and The Hague that care should be taken of them if they are found there.

"I find you and the other Commissioners infinitely above Mons. Herbaut's character in this occasion; at least they will

have no reason to say we are hard with them as to the quality of the persons that transact with them." *Copy.* (XI. 150–153).

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, July 31. [N.S.] Paris.—" I have the honour of Your Lordship's letter of the 14–24th; I hope this will find you safely arrived in Holland, where (as indeed everywhere) I wish Your Lordship all sorts of happiness and satisfaction. I have delivered all the enclosed according to their several addresses; and rejoiced B[raconier] extremely with the hopes that in a post or two he shall hear of your kindness to him. I was on Tuesday at Versailles; the business which was the great discourse of the day was, the Grand Prieur* was sent that morning to the Basti[l]le, the occasion of which was a quarrel that happened the night before between him and the Prince de Conty at Meudon. Monseigneur was gone to bed, the Grand Prieur and the Prince of Conty were at *ombre;* the Grand Prieur affected to think that the Prince of Conty had said something harsh to him, and after the party was done, the Prince of Conty and the Duke de Ventadour being together, the Grand Prieur walked two or three turns by them, as if he would have spoken to the Prince of Conty, which the Prince taking notice of, left the Duke de Ventadour, and coming up towards the Grand Prieur, the Grand Prieur asked him if he remembered what he had said to him at play. The Prince of Conty said he did not remember to have said anything that might offend him, or if he did, he did not intend it; the Grand Prieur answered that it was not so that a man of his quality was to be treated; the Prince answered that it was not so that a Prince of the Blood was to be talked to, and added: 'Ho! ho! Monsieur, vous le prenez sur un ton bien haut'. 'Tout sur un autre ton,' reprit le Grand Prieur 'que vous ne l'avez pris à Neerwinds. 'Et moi,' dit le Prince [je] l'ai pris là sur un autre ton que vous n'avez fait à Barcelonne.' As this passed Mons. le Duc [de Ventadour] interposed and said:—'Qu'est ce que ça, Mons. le Grand Prieur? est ce comme ça qu'on parle à un Prince du Sang?' 'Ce n'est pas à vous que je parle, Monsieur,' répondit Mons. le Grand Prieur. 'Monsieur,' dit Mons. le Duc, 'quand on parle comme ça à un Prince du Sang, on me le parle aussi.' Thus, I think, the thing was. Monsieur wrote immediately to Versailles, and the next morning Mons. le Duc and the Prince of Conti gave an account of it to the King; and at the same time that they were with him the Grand Prieur desired an audience. They persuaded him from it, but when he persisted in his desire, they told the King he was there. The King sent him word out that he should go to Mons. de Pontchartrain, and from him he should know his will and pleasure; which he did accordingly, and it was that he should

* *I.e.,* Philippe, younger brother of the Duc de Vendôme. *Cf.* p. 246, *infra.*

be sent to the Basti[l]le ; so he went thither privately in the afternoon.

" Tho' the Prince of Conti got the better in this affair, he was a little mortified in another the same day, for Major General Jordan had his audience of the King as envoy from the King of Poland whilst the Prince was in the next room. The King's answer to Jordan's compliment was very short, and one expression in it was very odd, *que la conduite de Sa Majesté Polonnoise régleroit la sienne ;* which is in English, ' I will live with him according as he shall behave himself ' ; so France has acknowledged another king to the great regret of Abbé Renaudot the Gazettier.

" The King has said that the Duchess of Verneuil's coach shall have place in the Dutch Ambassador's entry, as in all that shall be made for the future. Mons. Saintoste tells me he shall have an order for that purpose.

" I told him as in discourse only that as he might see by my journal with what fermity Your Lordship refused to comply in this matter, so I had reason to think that he should not yield to this innovation. I thought it best to say thus, for if we do yield it, it is only my own private sentiments contradicted. His Majesty will have time enough to determine this when my Lord Jersey comes, and will, I presume, in the mean time hear what Messrs. Odyck and Heemskirk ask their masters about it, and consequently will determine as well to these ambassadors as to my Lord Jersey what is to be done in this affair.

" The expedition of Mons. de Genes in the South Sea is no longer a secret. There are already about 300 reformed officers that go as volunteers; the greatest part of these embark at Rochelle.

" The conduct of the people of Saint Germains is so poor that it is not worth troubling Your Lordship with it, that His Majesty has had long conversations with the Princess,* in which he has told her what accounts he has had from you of his being a fine boy, that His Majesty will propose it to the next Parliament to adopt him his heir, and a thousand other *bagatelles.*

" Glover, the engineer, who, as I have had the honour to write to Your Lordship, would endeavour to deserve His Majesty's pardon, tells me that two Scotchmen, one named Thomas Hebron, late of King James's Horse Guards, the other Alexander Ramsey, son to the late Bishop of Ross, are gone from hence to Scotland, as they say, but by the way of Holland without any pass or permission from our Government ; they are both bold men, zealous servants of King James, and determined enough to venture anything for him ; it would be well if they were looked after. I have written to Mr. Hill and to Sir Joseph Williamson in order to their being observed. I have done the same to the Pensioner Heinsius, who used to

Cf. p. 83, *supra.*

give orders in such cases to Leers, the Kamberbewarder, who knows the haunts of such people ; and I have likewise given Mr. Secretary Vernon an account of it, that he may advise the Secretary of Scotland in case they come thither.

" I could not speak with my Governor last Tuesday, the business of the Grand Prieur employed him so wholly ; to set off the truth in its best light will not be found to *sentir le garçon* ; the stories they have from St. Germains of our affairs are so monstrously ridiculous that I perceive they will believe them no longer.

" They say the design of the King's going for Holland is to confirm an alliance with the Duke of Zell, the Electors of Brandebourg and Hanover and other Princes of Germany, in case France should do anything upon the King of Spain's death, which in words they seem to be very averse from, however the preparations they make seem to show the contrary.

" As to particular things, I think Madam Mayercron was rather denied to be in the town than that she was really out ; she is better at present. I hear the horses spoken of with all the admiration imaginable ; the King goes out with them very often, I have heard a flying report that he was to make Your Lordship a present of fine tapestry *des Goblines*, but I never asked any person living in the least about it, because I would not have it at all thought that you looked for any return, which I am sure is below Your Excellency's temper or your manner of giving things.

" I hear Sir Joseph Williamson has desired to return home, and that Mons. d'Allonne* will succeed him. I am very glad so worthy a man and so good a servant to the King will be there." *Copy.* (XI. 143–150).

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, [early in August].—" The correspondent, to shew his integrity, has let me see by B[raconier] a memoir particular enough of Fontenay† : it contains his life and actions, how he was taken going into Ireland by my Lord Torrington and brought seemingly into His Majesty's interest, the discourses he had with the Duke of Shrewsbury (then Earl), with the Duke of Schomberg and with His Majesty ; and how all this while he held correspondence with Mons. de Louvois by the means of one Lefevre : these particulars I could send Your Excellency, but it would increase the packet to a degree that it might be suspected and opened, and I believe it is not worth the while, since things are settled by a Peace, and the whole account proves the man to be at last a villain.

"Count Guiscard is named Ambassador for Sweden for having defended Namur so well ; Tallard, d'Harcourt, Guiscard, all

* *Cf.* Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation*, iv. 321, 395, 453.

† Buccleuch MSS. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) II., Pt. I. 51—54.

gens d'espée, are made ministers; the King says they are properer than the *gens de robe*, and serve him better.

"Mons. des Alleurs, another of the same kind of men, has made his court to the Elector of Brandenbourg in a very new manner; the envoy, especially of crowned heads, never waited on the Elector at table; Mr. Stepney, therefore, retired when the Elector sat, but Mons. des Alleurs stayed twice or thrice behind the Elector's chair; Mr. Stepney wrote me word of this, and desired me to enquire as *en passant*, and by way of curiosity, if des Alleurs had any orders from this Court for his doing thus. I perceive he had; Mons. de Pomponne has said of it that it was *une démarche sans conséquence, que c'estoit fait à une maison de campagne* (it was at Koningsberg), *que c'estoit fait plutôt en cavalier qu'en ministre:* thus, my Lord, you see how these people can let their ministers do anything *en cavalier*, as they call it, upon any occasion by which they would make their court; whilst on other accounts they carry things with the greatest exactness, and are always endeavouring to gain in the ceremonial, as, for instance, in the business of the Duchess of Verneuil.*

"The Grand Prieur continues still in the Bastil[l]e. The Duke de Vendosme has made the greatest submissions imaginable for his brother, and says *qu 'au lieu de la Bastil[l]e il auroit dû estre mis aux petites maisons*; the King is mighty angry as well for the thing itself as that it was done in his son's house; but this is very unaccountable; at the same time that they make such a difference between the family of Vendosme and the Princes of the Blood they would have the Duchess de Verneuil, who is widow to another branch of the same family (that is, to a natural son of Henry the 4th) have rank as a Princess of the Blood.*

"Your Excellency is mightily praised by the foreign ministers that dare speak for having refused to yield this point, though Mons. Saintost would fain put it upon your not having had time enough to write about it to Court, though I have disabused him publicly as to that notion, and said that you absolutely and formally denied to submit to it; if the Dutch Ambassador yield it, I do not well see how my Lord Jersey will get off from it.

"Your Lordship will hear as exactly from Brussels as we can here in what estate the King of Spain's health is; I am told that the last courier brought word that Count Harrach had openly made some proposition in favour of the Archduke; if so, the House of Austria manage very simply, to lay any claim whilst the King of Spain is yet alive, whilst they are in no condition to support that claim in case he should die; and France on the contrary manages wisely, seeming to refer everything to the Council of Spain, and being in the meantime in a condition to vindicate whatever it may pretend to.

* *Cf.* Grimblot, *Letters of William III. and Louis XIV.*, i. 206

"Collections have been made in all the churches of this city for the poor Irish priests which the late Acts of Parliament sent from that kingdom.

"The Archbishop of Paris may be a very holy man, but he is a very ill geographer if he takes Ireland to be *La Grande Bretagne*; and if by *des pauvres Catholiques de la Grande Bretagne réfugiés en France* he means those whom we banished from England for having been against His Majesty's Government, and in war against their country, his charity is more extensive than reason or justice will permit."

Postscript.—"Twelve of the youngest regiments have been broke since I had the honour to write last to you." *Copy.* (XI. 154–8.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, August 8. [N.S.] Paris.—"The freshest news is that the Grand Prieur is again at liberty, the business between him and the Prince of Conty being made up, and he being to submit himself particularly to the Dauphin for having wanted the respect he owed to his house.

"Count Tallard, Your Excellency will have known, is come to Holland by the way of Calais; he had a great mind to have come to Court, but the King refused him leave cavalierly enough: for Tallard desired to have the honour to wait on His Majesty to lay before him the state of affairs in England, and the King said he was well enough informed of them from the letters Count Tallard had writ him.

"The voyage to Compiègne is said to be for the 29th, so that the King will be there the 1st or 2nd, but this talk of one day and another alters so often that it is hardly worth troubling you with: all the public ministers go thither, from the Nonce to Mons. Palmquist. I would beg Your Excellency to let me know what His Majesty pleases that I should do on this occasion, if I should go to the camp or no: for accordingly I must provide, for I take it for granted my Lord Jersey will not be come before that time.

"I have delivered Your Lordship's letters to Mons. Pomponne, as I have likewise done the others to their addresses. I have a thing of some importance to send to Your Excellency, but will omit doing it till the Dutch Ambassador despatches a courier." *Copy.* (XI. 160–1.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, August 11. [N.S.] Paris.—"I hear the Count d'Estrées is gone out from Brest, as the galleys likewise are from Marseilles. De Genes is gone to Rochelle to hasten his preparations to the Indies. The pretence of his making new discoveries in the South Sea is frivolous; and he could hardly think of landing without being assured of the Spaniards' assistance. Your Excellency will have heard as particularly concerning that Monarch's health as I can send you word from hence.

"Count Harrach's having proposed the perpetual government of the Milanois for the Archduke makes a good deal of noise here; I dined yesterday with the politicians Alsfield* and his brother, Count Guiscard, etc; amongst a great deal of discourse they brought about what we should do in this conjuncture. I told them freely that my opinion did not signify much, but it was that we should be in a condition not to be hurt in the scuffle, but to preserve our own and make the figure we ought of holding the balance of Europe right. From thence we come to talk of the King our Master; it is impossible to tell Your Lordship the excessive praises they gave him; Count Guiscard went further on this head than Your Lordship can imagine, and though I bore it with a seeming modesty and *retenue*, it made me as proud as if I had taken Namur myself.

"I heard in the same conversation that Mons. Pomponne is extremely satisfied with the letter he received from Your Lordship.

"I wish mightily to know if I am to go to Compiègne, that accordingly I may prepare for it." *Copy.* (XI. 163–4.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, August 1[–11]. Whitehall.—"My Lord Jersey tells me he stays only till he is despatched by the Treasury. I suppose they will take up their meetings again towards the end of the week, but at present all are dispersed about their elections, which is a matter more eagerly pursued than the succession to the Crown of Spain; I mean by all except the French.

"I am glad to see the Archbishop of Paris his charity. I hope the Irish friars will flock to him to partake of it, and not slip over hither, as it is apprehended."

Postscript.—"The enclosed for Beauger was put into my hands by an acquaintance of the Duke of Shrewsbury, who is an alderman of Worcester. I think the sending it will not come within the law of corresponding, since it is but to give an account of a bastard daughter, who, I suppose, requires some care to be taken of her. Whether any in that Court are in a condition to do it, I am unconcerned, nor do I much care what you do with the letter." (IV. 66.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, August 15. N.S. Paris.—"I hope you received the two patterns of the stuff which I sent last post.

"Here is little news stirring; I was not at Versailles on Tuesday, the Court not returning till Wednesday from Marli. The Grand Prieur has asked pardon of the Prince of Conti and of Mons. le Duc; the Prince of Conti answered him that he was more his friend than ever, and had absolutely forgotten all that had passed.

* *Cf.* Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation*, iii. 10.

"The Duchess of Chartres is brought to bed of a daughter.

"I am confirmed that in Provence and Languedoc there are 80 battalions at present.

"This is all which this post affords, besides my recommending the enclosed to Your Lordship." *Copy.* (XI. 169.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Albemarle.

1698, August 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"Il n'y a guère de nouvelles ici : si on sçait que le Roy alla un tel jour à Marli, et qu'il reviendra un tel à Versailles, on est le plus satisfait du monde. Ce que j'ay l'honneur de vous écrire touchant les préparatifs de la France en cas que le Roy d'Espagne vienne à mourir se trouvera fort vray ; il y a pour le moins 80 bataillons en Provence et en Languedoc ; on a nommé encore 17 régiments pour estre cassés. Pour le reste je suis vitrier, blanchisseur, menuisier, tout, jusques à l'arrivée de my Lord Jersey, car l'ayant loué la maison de Paris la plus propre dans le plus mauvais endroit de la ville, je suis obligé de luy justifier mon choix par tout ce que je pourray faire pour en rendre les appartemens charmants, et pour divertir la petite colère de Madame.

"J'écris régulièrement à mon maître Portland, mais je ne reçois que fort rarement de ses faveurs ; de sorte que je ne sçay point si je devrois aller à Compiègne ou non.

"Du Menin, ce coquin, a esté avec moi deux ou trois fois ; il me parle comme s'il vous vouloit envoyer du vin, et souhaiteroit de sçavoir si vous avez reçu cela qu'il vous a déjà envoyé

"J'ay une maisonnette fort propre dans le voisinage de my Lord Jersey ; il n'y entrera que des honnêtes gens, des sçavants et du Menin ; on y boira quelque fois à la santé de Milord Albemarle, comme les anciens ont toujours fait à leur Dieu tutélaire.

"Je suis bien las de mes honneurs et voudrois bien les défaire sur my Lord Jersey. Mon petit ministère par interim m'a fait faire une dépense enragée ; mais n'importe, l'honneur du Roy y a esté maintenu et la France a veu que le moindre secrétaire de Sa Majesté a sceu dire à qui il étoit." *Copy.* (XI. 165).

Matthew Prior to Charles Montague.

1698, August 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"You must give me leave to say that no man alive enters further than I do into the consideration of everything that may touch you, but we cannot help these things ; Master Life and its neighbour Death are amongst Epictetus' *τὰ οὐκ ἐφ' ἡμῖν* ; and the best we can do is not to be in earnest about them. I wish I were at Hampton Court with you a day or two to fortify my doctrine by diverting you every way I could, for then a man has only occasion for a friend, when his mind

is low and he is wanting to himself. I could write you fine moral sentences upon this occasion, or refer you the long chapter to the Corinthians where St. Paul comforts people against death by calling them fools and dunces; but here is to you, my dear Master, in a glass of honest burgundy: as long as we are here let us live as easy as we can, and e'en take things as they come. Here, Master, *amicitiae aeternae* with all my soul! I protest to you I take part in everything that happens to your affairs, and am depressed and out of humour now as I was pleased with your being of the regency and triumphing over Sir Henry Colt last week.* If people have affections after death, which is a query, I shall doubtless love you longer than I am aware of." (XI. 171.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

[1698, August 16. N.S. Paris.]—"I rather write to acknowledge the favour of yours of the 1st of August and to condole with Sir Henry Colt than for any news I have to send you.

Egregiam vero laudem et spolia ampla refertis,
Una dolo divum si femina victa duarum est:

a great piece of business if a Viceroy and a Secretary of State have been too hard for a poor private Justice of Peace.

"Brocard was with me sometime since; he is gone amongst our friends. He showed me two papers, one, 'Some cautions offered to the considerations of those who are to choose members, etc.,' the other, 'A proposal about the birth of the Prince of Wales'; these papers were sent from England to have the approbation of our friends here in the country. I have not seen Brocard since, but I have let His Majesty know the thing under the Dutch Ambassador's cover in the *Postboy* from Thursday, the 28th of July, to Saturday, the 30th, *No.* 459. I find that the first of these pamphlets is already printed for William Rogers at the *Sun* in Fleet Street, and A. Baldwin in Norwich Lane. I know not if you would think it worth while to inquire underhand how and from whom these printers had the copy, or if you think the doing so would not too much expose the correspondent. Thus you see, Sir, all arms are made use of that may possibly help to raise seditions, discontents or misunderstandings amongst us.

"I shall take care of the enclosed for Beauger; though I think the bastard daughter may starve for any care that will be taken of her from this side." *Copy.* (XI. 173–5.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1698, August 11[–21]. Whitehall.—"Mr. Secretary Vernon tells me the King did not give any directions for doubling your allowance, though my Lord Portland promised it should be done. Your best way will be to write to my Lord Portland and Mr. Blathwayt about it.

* *Cf.* Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation*, iv. 405, 407.

"I saw last night our friend in Crown Court who makes a sad complaint of your absence, these embassies carrying away her best friends. She shewed me a lady as fine as your little night-walker of the 'Tuilliers,' and is the first real fine woman I ever saw there, but I am of too rambling a fancy to continue in a place." (VIII. 325.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1698, August 11[–21]. Dublin Castle.—"As to what you write concerning your office here, it is true I did at first desire our friend Mr. Tucker to endeavour to prevail with you to appoint me your deputy during your absence, and the consideration for my acting I would refer to him; but I believe he will likewise remember that I soon after told him that when I desired my Lord Galway in London that he would please to approve thereof, if I could obtain your consent, his answer to me was that he could not then tell who my Lord Marquis [of Winchester] and he should think fit to appoint to act during your absence in that station; and I heard nothing more till upon the road between London and Chester they both told me they had resolved to employ me only till your affairs would permit you to repair hither, and that t'll then they meant the advantage as well as the business to be to me, so that I always looked upon myself appointed by them, not deputed; this being before I received the favour of your approbation of the choice they had made." (IV. 68–69.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, August 11[–21]. Whitehall.—"I find you think it no victory that we got the better of the Justice [Sir H. Colt]: at least you must allow it was a very good escape that we got rid of him in five days, when he intended the poll should last fifteen.

"I suppose you are satisfied that Count Tallard is not coming back so soon. It is more likely that we may hear of his going to Zell.

"The two pamphlets you mention have been in print these six weeks; therefore it was no great discovery to shew you them in writing unless they would tell us the authors. Perhaps I shall find out one of them without their help." (IV. 71.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, August 22. [N.S.] Paris.—"Your Lordship will be troubled at the news of the sudden death of the Princess Dowager d'Epinoy, which happened on Monday last. She was in good health and talking with Mons. Barbesieux in his appartment, and as she came out complained to the Prince, her son, that she was taken with a pain in her head, after

which she lived only two hours, but never spoke; the Duchess de Richelieu is likewise dead. Madam Portsmouth sets out on Sunday for England.

"The great preparations are for the Dutch Ambassador's entry the same day; these people chicane them extremely in the ceremonial, and Saintost* is to them what Bonneuil was to Your Excellency, promising all and holding to nothing; Mons. Heemskirk told me the other day that they had gained the point about the Duchess de Verneuil's sending her coach, which I am very glad of, for if they had yielded it, I doubt we should have been obliged to follow.

"Mons. de Lausun, with whom (as Your Excellency knows) I have been acquainted since my being here in France, does me the honour to be very obliging to me, but at the bottom, I think, his kindness tended to desire to know how matters stood in relation to the pension of King James or rather Queen Mary. He desired to know upon what foot that was, and if His Majesty of Great Britain, *i.e.*, our Master, had engaged himself to pay this pension. After all his asking I perceived he knew each particularity of the thing from Mons. Harlay or the other French plenipotentiaries; I therefore fairly recited to him how the thing stood, and that, when it was promised, it was always understood that it was upon condition that the Court now at St. Germains should behave themselves so as that His Majesty should be satisfied with their conduct; which, I said, I thought he had no reason to be whilst they were daily receiving people in private who came from England, whilst they were sending others thither, even those who were forbidden to come by the justice of our country and by our law, and whilst they hid and underhand encouraged some convicted and others suspected of the most horrid assassination and parricide that ever was intended. I thought it was best to speak out so, and I did it in a manner as if I would not say so much to anybody but to himself in confidence, and by reason of the particular friendship with which, I saw, he was pleased to honour me; and my saying so had the effect I could wish, which was to make him fall upon the King of England's praises, and to excuse himself from having had in the least to do with any of King James's practices.

"At last I gave him to understand, though not as otherwise than my own opinion, that, though we were so far from fearing King James that we pitied him, yet we thought that the priests and others that are about him were a little too near us, and thus we parted.

"On Tuesday that I was at Versailles he would have presented Master Cecil, the second son to the Earl of Exeter, but I thought it was [not] proper he should, considering my Lord Exeter's character in relation to His Majesty's Government; so I made Mr. Cecil excuse himself from being

* *Cf.* Grimblot, *Letters of William III. and Louis XIV.*, i. 206.

presented upon pretence of his small stay here in France, and I did the young gentleman all the honour I could besides.

"He is chosen a Member of Parliament for Stamford; I have given him the best notions I could, and will recommend him by letter to Mr. Montague, so that I hope the gentleman may prove a good subject and be right to His Majesty and his country's interests.

"As to private affairs, Rygault cannot get the pictures finished sooner than in six weeks from this time, I doubt we may reckon two months.

"The enclosed is from Mons. de Pomponne, who gives his humble service to Your Excellency.

"I will trouble Your Excellency no more but to tell you that Bra[conier] is very desirous of assistance. As to my own affair, Mr. Secretary tells me that having spoken to His Majesty and to Your Lordship about it, he does not doubt but that Your Lordship has settled it at 4*l.* a day. I believe I may thank Your Lordship for it *par avance.*

"Lord Jersey says he will be here next week." *Copy* (XI. 175–80.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, August 13 [–23]. Paris.—"Brocard has been walking his rounds; what he knows is here enclosed. He complains that it is a dead time and that he does not know how to deserve your kindness to him, but this was secretly to anim-advertize me that he had a mind to the fifty pounds, part of which I have given him: he shall have the rest when he pleases; if you please to pay the sum in to Mr. Powys, of the Treasury, he will be extremely ready to receive it.

"I had a long discourse the other day with Mons. Lausun, with whom I have the honour to be much acquainted, about the pension we are to allow Queen Mary. He desired to know upon what foot that matter stood, and if His Majesty of Great Britain had engaged himself to pay it: after all his asking one might easily perceive he knew each particular of the thing from M. Harlay or the other French plenipotentiaries. I therefore fairly recited to him how the thing stood, and that, when it was promised, it was always understood to be upon condition that the Court now at St. Germains should behave themselves so as that the King our Master should be satisfied with their conduct, which (I said) I thought he had no reason to be, whilst they were daily receiving people in private who came from England, and sending others thither even such as were forbidden to come by our laws and by the common justice of our nation; and whilst they concealed and underhand encouraged some convicted and other suspected of the most horrid parricide and assassination that ever was contrived.

"I thought it was best to speak out so, and I did it in a manner as if I would not say so much to anybody but to himself

in confidence, and by reason of the particular friendship with which he was pleased to honour me ; and my doing so had the effect I could wish, which was to make him fall into praises of the King our Master, and excuse himself from having had in the least to do with any of King James' practices. At last I gave him to understand (though not as otherwise than my own opinion) that, though we were so far from fearing King James that we pitied him, yet we thought that some priests and others, whom he had about him, were a little too near us. I have written this conversation to my Lord Portland, and do the same to you, because I believe this man's endeavouring to pump me might be done by order, and I have heard that our friends at St. Germains are a little apprehensive they may be sent further afield, in which case they would (I fancy) close more easily with the pension.

"The King of Spain's health is despaired of by this Court, for which reason I am glad that our squadron is going into the Mediterranean, for (once more) you must keep this peace as you made it, with your sword in your hand.

"The project of campaigning at Compiègne holds for the first or second of September ; the King goes from Versailles the 28th.

"My Lord Jersey tells me he will be here in a week ; I am preparing for his reception. The Dutch Ambassadors make their entry to-morrow ; it will be very magnificent ; they have nine coaches, four of them as fine as ever have been seen.

"This Court (Mr. Heemskirk tells me) have dropped the point they insisted upon, that the Duchess of Verneuil's coach should have place as of a Princess of the Blood, which I am the rather glad of, because, if the Dutch had yielded it, they would have left so fresh a precedent that my Lord Jersey would not have been able to have avoided following it without great difficulty.

"I have received your recommendatory letter in favour of Mr. Pepys' nephew. I need say no more than that bringing your letter he brings a command to me.

—— *Tuus, O Regina, quid optes*
Explorare labor, mihi jussa capessere fas est." *Copy.* (XI. 182–5.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, August 15[–25]. Paris.—"The Dutch Ambassador's entry was the subject of our entertainment yesterday, which would have appeared finer if Your Lordship had not immediately preceded it. Their two first coaches were of those great machines of eleven foot high, very rich on the outside and lined with plain velvet with great gold fringes. Mons. d'Odyck had one set of large greys and another pied, very fine ; two of Mons. Heemskirk's coaches were too plain for a private gentleman to appear here at Paris, where they

like nothing but gilding and show. The Mareschal Tourville introduced them. Madame de Verneuil's coach was not there. The ambassadors did the honour to send to me as to His Majesty's minister to notify their entry; I therefore went in my own equipage with the six horses Your Excellency left here for Lord Jersey to compliment them at Rambouillet, for I thought I was obliged to do the ambassadors as much honour as I could, and to testify, as I do in everything, the great friendship and correspondence (which will, I hope, endure for ever) between our nations.

"We talk of nothing but Compiègne: the King goes from Versailles on Thursday to Chantilli, where he is to lie two nights.

"My Lord Jersey will not be here so soon.

"I have written to know Your Excellency's commands, if I am to go to Compiègne, but have not yet had the honour to receive them. I must beg Your Excellency to finish what your kindness to me began of fixing my allowance at 4*l.* a day; and I hope it may begin from the 20th of January past, when Your Excellency's embassy began, or at least from the 18th of June, when Your Excellency left Paris, or I am quite ruined and bankrupt; and yet I have not been extravagant, but Your Excellency knows Paris, or will do when you see your own accounts.

"I send Mr. Van Leüven the account as it stands in relation to the money of Your Excellency left in my hand.

"I hope for money out of the Treasury if this affair of my allowance were once fixed, which, therefore, I entreat Your Lordship to do for me." *Copy.* (XI. 186–8.)

R[ichard] Powys to Matthew Prior.

1698, August 15[–25]. Whitehall.—"I doubt you will draw another bill upon [me] for a charge, I am to tell you, is fallen upon you, though I doubt it will be hardly allowed in your extraordinaries, which is that you must buy a new equipage of mourning for your good old mother, the Dutch baker in King Street, who fell down dead on Friday last. The virtuous young lady you may be sure is under great affliction and wants you to comfort her.

"I took my leave this morning of my Lord Jersey, who intended in the afternoon to set out on his journey towards you." (VIII. 329.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, August 16[–26]. Whitehall.—"King James being invited to the camp at Compiègne hath been this fortnight in the Paris newspapers. Indeed, it is necessary you should quicken this man [Brocard] up, for one cannot be long amused with such trash: pray let him inform you who this Evans is,

and where he resides when he is in England, and that we may have early notice when he comes over. Brocard made me believe that he had the means of introducing himself into the confidence of that Court as deep as any of them, and I hoped before now that he would have procured to himself one of the commissions of coming over upon some desperate errand.

"I wish your discourse with Mons. de Lauzun may produce some of the effects you mention, but otherwise we see no appearance of their being sent further off.

"You will now have the felicity of my Lord Jersey's arrival, and I give you joy of it. I hope you will have an eye upon Mr. Pepys' nephew, that he doth not go astray. My recommendation of him goes no further than as he and his company shall behave themselves. I believe the old gentleman means fairly, and hath sent no underhand compliments to his old master, having professed the contrary; but young men and ladies may sometimes be libertines and forget good advice.

"I expect to hear very soon from my Lord Portland, and that he will not leave your concerns any longer in suspense." (IV. 72.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, August 27. [N.S.] Paris.—"The Landgrave of Hesse's sons, who are here *incognito*, have been presented to the King by the Duke of Orleans.

"The Prince of Parma is returned hither through Holland and Flanders in order to his seeing the camp at Compiègne.

"A sermon preached here last week by the famous Jesuit La Rue upon St. Bernard's Day makes a great noise. The Bishop of Meaux and other prelates were present: the preacher, after having made a long panegyric upon his Saint, extolled him more particularly for having combated and destroyed a heresy which Gilbert Poretanus, Bishop of Poictiers, taught or at least encouraged, and at last he compared this Bishop to the Archbishop of Cambray, and St. Bernard to the Bishop of Meaux. The good Bishop is thought to have concerted this sermon with the Jesuit; and we are like to have a division in that good order of men, since most of them at Rome are less violent against the Archbishop's doctrine* than Father La Rue was in his sermon here.

"The Dutch Ambassadors had their audiences yesterday at Versailles in the accustomed manner, and with the same train and magnificence as they had their entry on Sunday. Mareschal Tourville introduced them: Mons. Heemskirk, who is first in the embassy, spoke, and his speeches, particularly those to the King and the Duchess of Burgundy, were very good: the first was full of the joy the Republic had to make a Peace with his most Christian Majesty, and their sincere

* *I.e.*, the mysticism adopted by Fénelon from Mme Guyon.

intentions to keep and maintain it; the second was a compliment handsomely turned to the young Princess of the figure she was like to make in the world, whose marriage had been the occasion and overture of the general Peace's being made. The King's answer, especially that part of it which said he was equally resolved to keep the Peace, was very handsome, and made me begin to think he was in earnest.

"The King and all the Court went in the afternoon to St. Cloud to christen the Duke de Chartres' daughter: the Dauphin and the Duchess of Burgundy were godfather and godmother: King James and his Queen were there, and since most of the ministers went thither from Versailles, I went likewise. I saw King James and his Queen (pray do not hang me for so doing), and there was nothing so odd as to see the Duke of Berwick and Lord Middleton traversing the gallery on one side, and I [*sic*] and Lord Reay, of the good Mackay brood, on the other side, each looking on the other with an air of civility mixed with contempt. The gentlemen belonging to the Duke d'Orléans and Chartres were embarrassed enough to call him one moment *le Roy d'Angleterre* to them, and speak to me the next of *le Roy Jacques:* it was, as most human things are, a farce ridiculous enough.

"King James looks mighty old and worn, and stoops in his shoulders; the Queen looks ill and melancholy; their equipage is mighty ragged, and their horses are all as lean as Sancho's. The King's voyage to Chantilli holds for to-morrow. King James is invited to Compiègne.

"I have the favour of yours of the 11th. Twisdel or Twisden is the cousin of a knight of the same name here. I wrote my Lord Portland the 9th of July word of his having kissed the Prince of Wales' hand. The Queen was then at Challiot [Chaillot], and most of the English gentlemen went thither to see her and the child. My Lord Perth saw him in the crowd, and cried out to his Lady, 'Madam, there is Mr. Twisden'; and putting the Prince forward towards him, Twisden kneeled down and kissed the Prince's hand. These are all the circumstances of that affair, the hand was kissed, and the kisser is doubtless the gentleman that took his pass in April, for about May he and his cousin first appeared here; and he is the son of a man of estate in England, suspected to be a Jacobite, and is looked upon here as of that party.

"I am almost ashamed to tell you that I have neither heard from my Lord Portland or Mr. Blathwayt since their arrival in Holland. My Lord indeed has a great deal of business, and I can only expect to hear from him when he has anything to command me.

"I am infinitely obliged to you for putting His Lordship in mind of my allowance. I hope it is fixed, and am ashamed to have given my friends so much trouble in it; but Mr. Blathwayt, I say, ought in conscience to let me have heard [*sic*]

that the King was arrived in Holland, and when he went further, considering I am at a Court that is inquisitive enough and value those ministers that they see know their business, and can give an account of their own department. *Sed nobis non licet esse tam disertis*, because I have not the happiness to be one of his favourites; and a consul in any corner of Italy shall be certainly written to—no matter for the Secretary at Paris; for Lacrimae Christi and White Florence are very good wines: but this is too ill-natured a reflection." *Copy.* (XI. 189–93.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, August 30. [N.S.] Paris.—"The last letters from Madrid received by the Court here give a little better account of His Catholic Majesty's health; that he had at least no relapse for some days before those letters came away, though his weakness still continued. The news we have from this Court upon this subject is not indeed to be much relied upon, for you will hardly hear sooner from Marli or Versailles that the King of Spain is very ill, than you will from Madrid that he is dead.

"The Marquis d'Harcourt presses the Council of Spain to make a strict alliance with France: in what this alliance is to consist I know not, for it is spoken of but in general terms. Cardinal Mazarin, you know, after he had made the Treaty of the Pyrenees, had a project of this kind, but the Marquis d'Harcourt must have a great deal of sense and ready money to bring that design to perfection at this time.

"Every motion we make awakens the curiosity of this Court: they will have it that the King's going to Zell is to concert an alliance with the German Princes. Their great inquiry is what Aylmer is to do in the Mediterranean, though we do not question them what d'Estrées does there. The most sensible part of the Court cannot but secretly commend us, and think we mind our affairs in sending him thither. His most Christian Majesty went on Thursday to Chantilly, and will be to-night at Compiègne; the ladies are of the voyage; the Dutch Ambassadors are to have their audience of Monsieur, Madame and that family this day at St. Cloud.

"After all the compliments between these Ambassadors and our friends at Versailles the affairs of commerce between the two nations are in no fairer way of being accommodated. One of the Commissioners told me that their last meeting was not above half an hour, and no way decisive in any one point.

"Count Tallard is sure the first Ambassador that ever was lost: everybody here ask[s] what is become of him: he had only a bare commission from the King his Master to begin the voyage, and had not assured himself that he should have the same from ours that he should continue it.

"It is a long time since I dunned you about the affair of my projectors that will secure our ships by a new sort of

tar ; pray, Sir, does our Admiralty think proper to encourage the experiment, or what must I say to the undertakers ? I am pressed by some of this Court to solicit the affair of the *Cheval Blanc* de St. Malo, Guillaume Berne, Maistre ; I know not in what estate it is, and you must pardon my inquiry, which was only to acquit myself of a promise I made that I would mention it to you, than that I have any concern what becomes of it.

"I have yet another thing to trouble you with : the Venetian Ambassador here is mightily concerned to know what reception his *confrère* shall meet with in England as to the ceremonial. I have told him that an ambassador extraordinary would certainly find the same treatment as those who were last in England, and that an ordinary ambassador would be regulated according to that model in proportion ; but he is not satisfied with this answer, and I know not how to get him a better."

Postscript.—"You see still in the *Gazette de Paris* enclosed that the King and Queen of Great Britain were at St. Cloud, and it is the King of England is at Loo." *Copy.* (XI. 194–7.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to CHARLES MONTAGUE.

1698, August 30. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have written one letter to you to congratulate you in your honours, one to condole with you, and here is a fourth to thank you : what shall I do, Sir, to express the obligations I have to you besides respecting you and obeying your commands for ever ? but I can better think than speak upon this subject, and you had rather let me talk of anything else.

"The King of Spain's health is the weather-glass upon which all our politicians look : as that rises or falls we look pleasant or uneasy. I am glad to tell you that I think France is as much afraid he should die as we can be, and what alliances the King of England is making in Germany, and what Aylmer is to do in the Mediterranean are questions proposed to me at least twice every day. The Dutch Ambassadors have been received here with all the external civility imaginable, but I do not see that from thence that the affairs of commerce between the two nations are more likely to be adjusted. One of the Dutch Commissioners told me himself that their last meeting was not above half an hour and no way decisive in any one point.

"This Court is gone to see their Monarch a-cockhorse at Compiègne. I follow as soon as my English nag arrives, and I shall a little have settled my Lord Jersey. I faced old James and all his Court the other day at St. Cloud. *Vive Guillaume !* you never saw such a strange figure as the old bully is, lean, worn and riv'led, not unlike Neal the projector ; the Queen looks very melancholy, but otherwise well enough ; their equipages are all very ragged and contemptible.

"I have written to my Lord Portland and Mr. Secretary the sum of several discourses I have had with Mons. de Lausun and others, or rather they with me, about the pension which we were to allow the Queen: do we intend, my dear Master, to give her the fifty thousand pounds *per annum*, or no? If we do not, I (or rather my Lord Jersey now) should be furnished with chicaning answers when we are pressed upon that point, for it was fairly promised, that is certain; if we do, the giving it openly and generously would establish the King a reputation in the minds of the French, which, if we give twice that money to purchase, would not, I think, be bought too dear: but this is my own sentiment and to my own Master: for the rest, *quæ supra nos nihil ad nos.*" *Copy.* (XI. 198–200.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, August 22[–Sept. 1]. Whitehall.—"I wonder you should not hear from Mr. Blathwayt: he does not use to be wanting in writing either long or short letters. Instead of your Lachrymae Christi and White Florence, can't you suppose that his letters have been opened at the French post-houses, and finding they were of consequence, they have been carried to Versailles instead of Paris; or otherwise he might not think the news he uses to send fit for a minister in so polite a Court. What reputation would it give you for intelligence to be able to tell which way the stag ran such a day, and how long the chase lasted!" (IV. 75.)

ST. EVREMOND to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, August 22[–Sept. 1]. London.—"Je dois toutes vos honnêtetés, et le dessein que vous aves de m'obliger à votre mérite plus qu'au mien: si vous n'éties naturellement obligeant je n'ai aucune qualité qui put m'attirer la grâce que vous m'aves faite. La considération de Mons. le Duc de Lausun peut y avoir contribué; mais comme j'en dois recevoir l'avantage, c'est à moi, Monsieur, de vous en faire tous les remercimens possibles. La grâce que vous me faites me donne l'honneur de votre connoissance, que j'estime plus que la grâce mesme. Je me tiendrois heureux de trouver une occasion où je pusse vous témoigner le ressentiment que j'en ai."

Postscript.—"Vous aures la bonté de faire donner ma lettre à Mons. le Duc de Lausun, et d'asseurer de mes très humbles services Mons. l'Ambassadeur et Mme l'Ambassadrice." (IV. 76.)

The EARL OF GALWAY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, August 23[–Sept. 2]. Dublin Castle.—"Je ne fais que vous donner de la peine. Le succès de toute celle que vous avez prise pour mes intérêts en France ne m'a point trompé Je ne l'ay jamais attendu meilleur; mais il a fallu

suivre le conseil de ses amis et faire plustôt des démarches inutiles que d'avoir quelque chose à se reprocher. Mon plus grand chagrin est par rapport à vous, qui avez tant travaillé sans aucun fruit." *Signed.* (IV. 78.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

1698, Sept. 3. [N.S.] Paris.—"My Lord Jersey came hither on Monday night in a post-chaise with his secretary and two domestics only; and does me the honour to be with me *incognito*, nobody yet knowing of his arrival: my Lady and family will come on Friday night, so on Saturday the Ambassador will be supposed to be here.

"I have not seen Brocard since my last: by another friend and indeed by twenty circumstances it is reasonable to believe there is no great matter of news stirring in that Court. By what I have yet seen of the conduct of Mr. Pepys' nephew it is likely to prove innocent enough.

"Mons. Pontchartrain and all the *Bureau de Marine* is gone to Compiègne with the King, which looks as if some orders of that kind were to be dispatched there." *Copy.* (XI. 201.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, August 25[–Sept. 4]. Whitehall.—"As to your tar projectors I find they have a sort of an agent here. I have told him, as I writ to you formerly, that neither our Admiralty nor Navy Board know what to say to it till they see the experiment made. I hear they are at work at Dunkirk, and methinks it should be no great trouble to them to send over one hither who is instructed in their secret, that may convince the incredulous of such of the effects as are triable here. If they are shy, we are reserved." (IV. 79.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, August 25[–Sept. 4]. Whitehall.—"I have no news of your 'cobbs' [dollars] from Ireland, nor have I any directions from you to write to Mr. May about them, without which I think I ought not.

"Mons. Paul Boyer has been very ill of a fever, but is upon recovery. Sir Fleetwood Shepherd (who has for some time been in effect dead) marched off yesterday morning; Admiral Mitchell, it is said, will succeed him as Black Rod. Sir Henry Hobart had a quarrel with one Mr. Le Neve in Norfolk, and fighting, the former was run into the guts, of which he is dead, and the other into the arm.

"I cannot find any direction yet come for your additional allowance." (VIII. 333.)

The MARQUIS DE TORCY to [MATTHEW PRIOR].

1698, Sept. 8. [N.S.] Compiègne.—Informing him that the duty on wines and liquors imported into Paris must

be paid by everybody ; even on wines intended for the King. In Lord Portland's case, it is true, the wine was admitted free on the assurance that the duty would be paid, but it is still owing. Therefore the duty demanded of Lord Jersey is in no way exceptional ; and his passport does not exempt from payment. *French. Signed.* (XX. 147.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JOHN TUCKER.

1698, Sept. 10. [N.S.] Paris.—"The last letter I troubled you with was to desire you to fix my affair with Mr. May, but by the abstract of a letter I received from him last post I see what opinion he has of it. I must protest to you before I say anything of this affair that I am abundantly convinced of your sincere friendship to me, and that I am assured you were as much mistaken in the man as I was, and that you meant a common kindness to two friends when you desired me to employ him during my absence : this being said, you will imagine that I cannot enough admire that a man, that by all his letters to me has never mentioned anything in a year and half of his being employed as first secretary by my consent and kindness, should thus act with me ; and that too when by his own letters he has given me account from time to time of what has been received in the office ; and not only so, but when he knows that my Lord Galway has in a manner excused to me by letter his having abridged some of the fees, and that the Secretary of State has by the King's own order excused more than once my absence upon account of my being absent on the King's business and by his own order ; and that he has seen that the Lords Justices themselves have and will continue to divide the appointment with my Lord Jersey, who is just in the same case with me ; and that Mr. May knows it was in my power to have nominated anybody else to act in my stead. The sum of all this is, that if he persists in the opinion he is now in, I shall be obliged to right myself as I can, which, I think, will be by drawing up a *factum* from the letters that have passed between us, and soliciting all the interest I can possibly make to do myself right. Mr. May will best judge if he will get the better of me upon this proceeding, or if this may not do him more prejudice than he is aware of, and if he does not stake his reputation, and possibly his fortune against six or seven hundred pounds. But before I will do anything of this kind I will write him a friendly letter ; and if upon it he thinks good to return me the whole, always standing to your arbitration, which I will do most heartily, our affair may go well, and the secret of this last demarch of his may be kept between us three, and shall be forgotten by me as to any resentment or heart-burning hereafter. But if Mr. May goes on in the way he is now, he must not impute it to me as a fault if I strive to do myself the severest justice. Whatever happens of this kind, I hope the friendship between you and myself will

never be diminished by what any third person can effect; as I have evident right on my side, so I know—between you and I [*sic*]—I have interest more than sufficient to back it, but I will act in relation to him whom you have thought your friend as becomes me, who really am and will always continue so." *Copy.* (XI. 203–6.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, Sept. 1[–11]. Whitehall.—"By a letter I received this day from my Lord Portland I find an account is sent you that he had moved His Majesty, and your double allowance is settled from the time of your going over. This hath been a frank and generous kindness, and I wish you had nothing to do but to reap the benefit of it. I hear the Lords of the Treasury are now afraid of the precedent, and even those who would not have you disappointed are for changing the method, and instead of a daily allowance would have you receive it by way of bounty in a lump. This will be indifferent to you, provided you have your total at last." (IV. 81.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Sept. 12. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have the favour of Your Excellency's letter of the 2nd, but it came only with those of the 5th. I hope to hear in a post or two from Your Excellency, though I dare not press you, for I know how little leisure you have, but the correspondent presses me by B[raconier], though, indeed, he has little to give us for the value of what he has had from Your Excellency; and Bra[conier] presses me likewise for himself; Bayly, too, desires to know what is to become of him, if he is to stay where he is, and if Your Excellency will continue him his pension there; and the last pension I will trouble Your Excellency about is my own, which, I hope, you will not forget to have settled by reason the Treasury is now in a condition to pay me something of it.

"Davies is gotten to Saint Germains; he pretends he would refund the money if he saw an order under your hand for his so doing, but he is so great a villain that there is nothing to be done with him. Colonel Burk has endeavoured with great industry to serve Your Excellency (as you already know) in this affair, and when Your Excellency sees proper to recommend the poor man's case to His Majesty's commiseration, it will be indeed a great piece of charity in you. It is hardly worth troubling you with what they do at Compiègne, it is so dirty there that the horses can hardly move; I do not go there, not having had any orders, and waiting upon my Lord Jersey (as my duty commands me here).

"The squadron which the Count d'Estrées commands is arrived at Toulon, which is the only considerable news which this post affords.

"I cannot get Riqcaut to finish your picture yet, though I press him as much as I can possibly." *Copy.* (XI. 208–10.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, Sept. 5[–15]. Whitehall.—"On Friday last Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer enquired of me how much the doubling of your allowance would come to. Accordingly I made him a state thereof, by which it appeared to be 728*l.*; he afterwards ordered a warrant to be drawn for the King to sign, to pay to you 500*l.* as of the King's bounty, which was sent that night to Mr. Blathwayt for the King to sign. The fees of this will cost you more than your other money.

"I have so many obligations to you that I blush to think you should add to them by sending me a present of wine. If you please to let it be directed to Isaac Manley, Esq., at the Custom House, London, and to let me know when you send it and by what ship, I hope to save the custom."

Postscript.—"Sir Robert Howard being dead, the Treasury have constituted the Chancellor's brother, Mr. Christopher Montague, Auditor of the Receipt of Exchequer, which is a 'bob' for the noble Marquis of Carmarthen." (VIII. 337.)

The EARL OF PORTLAND to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, Sept. 5[–15]. Loo.—"Je vous remercie de vostre dernière du 29 d'Aoust; j'avois appris l'entrée et l'audience des Ambassadeurs de l'Estat; je ne sçay si vous courés risque de la vie pour avoir veu le Roy Jaques, mais bien que j'ay ry de tout mon cœur de votre récit; c'est la plus sotte chose du monde d'estre obligé de changer de ton et de style d'un bout de la chambre à l'autre. Si j'avois veu vostre Gouverneur sur son bidet faisant son homage à la portière je suis seur que je l'aurois fait rougir; mais tout ce jeu est ridicule et ne sauroit durer longtemps; et il faut que cela tourne de l'une ou de l'autre manière.

"Il me semble que vous estes de sentiment que la pension devoit estre payée devant la retraitte, mais je ne suis pas de cette opinion. J'ay parlé au Roy touchant le temps que vous aurez l'augmentation de vos gages; Sa Majesté la accorde depuis le temps de vostre départ, mais il ne veut pas que cela se sache à cause de la conséquence dont cela seroit pour d'autres. Ainsi j'ay escrit a Messrs. Montagu et Vernon pour les prier de consulter ensemble pour voir la manière de le faire facilement.

"Il faudra un peu savoir ce que l'on pourra donner par an à Br[acon]ier, et de quoy vous croyez qu'il puisse vivre, et puis je le lui feray avoir, car le Roy y'a consenti."

Postscript.—"Je voudrois que la calesche que Mons. du Mont me fait faire peut estre preste pour m'estre envoyée avec le bagage de Mons. d'Odyck. Gardés entre vos mains l'argent que vous avez encore à moy: je vous écriray comment en disposer à moins que Mons. d'Odyck n'en eût besoin pour le service du Roy." (IV. 86.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Sept. 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have the honour of Your Excellency's letter of the 5th. I shall say no more of His Majesty's goodness to me, or of Your Lordship's favour in procuring it, than that I shall always study by my zeal and diligence in His Majesty's service to deserve the continuance of both to me, and I will make no other compliment upon it to Your Excellency than that I will always be obedient and active in performing all your orders and commands.

"I shall write on Wednesday some hints I have had of letters which will be sent into England from St. Germains; I shall write of it, I say, to the Secretary of State; I do not trouble Your Excellency with it yet, since the informations I have are imperfect and the way of sending by Holland a little subject to uncertainty; but I write to the Secretary in cipher, which is something surer.

"Bayly has been with me again: I write to Mr. Van Leuven about the continuance of his allowance; I have not heard in some time from the correspondent, nor can he, I think, have much at this season more than he has already told us.

"The ladies about whom B[raconier] interested himself are gone this morning for England; I have recommended them to Mr. Boyle and Fielding by letter; I believe they are rather whores than plotters.

"We have little public news; the enclosed will tell you how furiously they attack and how gloriously they defend themselves at Compiègne, but the wet weather spoils all the parade. People that have a mind to laugh call it the *Camp des Marionnettes*, and they call Mons. de Boufflers Briocher, which is the name of the master of the *marionnettes* here at Paris. It is not only my Governor who mounts his *bidet* upon occasions; your friend Boufflers does as much, he treated the Court the 10th and King James with a great deal of splendour and magnificence and rid out with the latter in the afternoon. He is so pleased with this command that (I am credibly informed) he designs to buy the village of Coudun, where the headquarters are, and get it annexed to his Duchy of Boufflers, and will have it called *Coudun les Rois*; but though this be seriously talked, I own it looks too ridiculous to be true.

"King James came from Compiègne the 13th, and in his way to Saint Germains called at Challiot [Chaillot], where the Queen was in devotion till his return. I know not if I explained myself right as to these people's pensions being paid by what I laid before Your Excellency of the discourse I had upon that subject with Mons. de Lauzun. Your Lordship sees how I act with all of them that speak about this business; and what I meant was only how far I might venture to say the pension would be paid in case they were

removed ; for as I have said to them all, I always understood this to be the secret condition upon which it was promised, and that I thought (as I am sure the French plenipotentiaries must do) at the signing the Peace, that we could never be thought to give away such a sum of money on any other account or consideration, and for the truth of this I always referred them to my Lord Jersey, when he should come, who was at the signing the Peace, and thus far I was sure I could not be wrong, for it was what I had said to Colonel Hussey before Your Excellency.

"According to the commands you gave me in your letter of the 5th, I have waited on Mr. d'Odyck, and signified to him that I am ready to pay him the 3,000 *livres* when he shall require it; and I shall likewise take care that the calesche and the pictures be ready to be brought with his goods into Holland. I hasten Rigault as much as possible.

"Upon this occasion of the picture I have a petition to make to Your Excellency, which I would have spoken of whilst you were here, but I really durst not ; it is that I have and shall have the pictures of the Masters I have had the honour to serve under, as my Lord Pembroke, Jersey, etc., and if Your Excellency would give me leave to have your picture copied by Rigault I should esteem it, as I ought to do, as a very great favour. I would not by this have the impudence to beg 30*l.* of you for the charge I would pay, but I only mean that I durst not take the boldness to have the copy taken without having Your Excellency's consent. Monsieur Van Leüen will give me Your Excellency's answer upon this request of mine without my giving Your Excellency the trouble of an answer." *Copy.* (XI. 210–15.)

Matthew Prior to H. May.

1698, Sept. 17. [N.S.] Paris.—"I must trouble you again about Mr. Zurlauben's affair. He desires that you would give this letter to the lady with whom he left his plate, and to return her answer either written or verbal, which he will, he says, rest satisfied in. This importunity is rather from my Lord Portland than myself, so I can the easier desire you to pardon it.

"But I must beg your patience to hear me upon another subject, in which I only am interested ; 'tis upon the contents of the letter I had the honour to receive from you of the 11th of August, which I would not answer too suddenly or rashly, but upon consideration, and with the kindness of a friend.

"First, therefore, you must give me leave to tell you that no man could be more surprised than I was that you and I understood each other so very little. Mr. Tucker, my good friend, interceded with me that you should exercise my employment whilst His Majesty's service ordered me elsewhere. I consented to it readily, and thought no man so

proper to be for some time in the station of First Secretary as he whom two of the Lords Justices had honoured with the title of Second Secretary, but as well Mr. Tucker's letters as yours for a year and half, which I have by me, gave me (as I thought) to understand that you were deputed by me, and accountable to me; and I refer myself to you if in this year and half you ever gave me any one word or hint to the contrary.

"As to your being named by their Excellencies the Lords Justices, *sub judice lis est*: I take it for granted that the First Secretary being appointed by the King, His Majesty orders or dispenses with the service as he judges proper, and as he does with that of one of the Lords Justices; and I have reason to think their Excellencies are of the same opinion. How far His Majesty will be pleased to interest himself in this small affair of mine will be seen hereafter; at least I am sure he knows that I am here by his special order and appointment, and that I had rather be at Dublin performing the functions of my place than contending at this distance for what I esteem my right.

"The letters that by His Majesty's command have been written into Ireland about me confirm me in this opinion, for why should the Duke of Shrewsbury and my Lord Portland by His Majesty's order and consent write to have Mr. Prior's absence dispensed with if Mr. May was to have the profits? Could all that His Majesty meant by this be only that Mr. Prior should not be turned out from his place in Ireland because he was commanded to serve in Holland or France; because the King would not let him come from the first of these places till the Peace was made, and commanded him to stay in the second till he thought good to recall him? If this had been all, what need had I of these letters? For if the Lords Justices had written to me that I must repair to Dublin or lose my charge, it had been time enough for me to have procured such letters in my favour, but on the contrary I have always had very obliging letters from their Excellencies to invite me, when His Majesty's orders should command, to come to my charge. I hope my zeal and industry in their service will show the sense I have of their favour; but indeed I can never think that the King's order or their Excellencies' should compliment me so nicely with the name of Secretary as not to intend me one farthing of the income, and I think the third of my masters is so far in my case as to be on my side, though I perceive in this almost year and half you have been so far from consulting him in it as never to have written to him.

"The sum of all is, Sir, that as yet I have neither written or spoken to any person but to Mr. Tucker about the state of our affair; if you please to render me an account of the fees legally and fairly received in the office from the 17th of May, 1697, on which day the King nominated me First Secretary

of Ireland (always understanding that I allow you a consideration for acting as such, which consideration shall be left to the arbitrage of Mr. Tucker), I shall be satisfied and the affair terminated; but if you persist in the sentiment wherein you are at present, you must allow me to use all my interests and solicit all my friends that I may have that done me which I esteem justice. This, Sir, I leave to your consideration: favour me as soon as you can conveniently with an answer, and act with me in the same free and open manner as I do with you, for as yet the thing is only between you, Mr. Tucker, and myself, and may still continue only so if you please; but if you think otherwise of it, do me the justice to say that I writ to you in this friendly way before I thought of righting myself by any other." *Copy.* (XI. 216–21.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Sept. 17. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have the favour of your letter of the 1st, the day after I had rejoiced over one from my Lord Portland, which told me my allowance was doubled. I cannot help it if the King's generosity in this point does not agree with the methods of the Treasury, but I know that His Majesty, my Lord Portland, Mr. Mountague and Mr. Vernon may either give me 40*s.* a day or an equivalent, and I think the fellow in Terence was no ill counsellor that said

> *Quaeso, quando id quod velis non possit, velis id quod potest.*

The only difference that I see between your methods is that your 500*l.* at a lump and 500*l.* after will give you more trouble, for provided these sums are repeated often enough to make the calculation even with 40*s.* a day augmented (I keep to my text, you see), neither Mr. Powys or I shall be much concerned.

"In short, you may do what you please with me, for whilst you are Secretary of State it is as much impossible that you should let me want, as it is that I should be insensible of your favour.

"We have nothing stirring here more than the enclosed informs you, and if every post afforded as little as this, I think I should hardly deserve what I have already. Pray send me word if you know the hand in which this enclosed is written, for in it is that the Abbé Renaudot has the article from England for his *Gazette*, and my correspondent says it comes from the office." *Copy.* (XI. 221–23.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 12[–22]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of the 16th inst., N.S., and we have since had a confirmation by the Corunna packet-boat of the ill

condition of the King of Spain's health, which, I am afraid, threatens us with trouble enough.

"The enclosed piece of news you sent me I conclude is the handwriting of Mons. Delafaye, who translates the *Gazettes* here into French, and I believe hath held a long correspondence with Abbé Renaudot. What is in that paper is of no great consequence."

Postscript.—"I believe you have heard of three brothers who were formerly in a proclamation and taken up on account of the assassination, viz., George, Thomas, and Bevill Higgons. There appeared no proofs against them of that crime, but their affections to the Government were neither remarkable before nor since. I hear they are lately gone over into France, and particularly that Thomas Higgons is gone to St. Germains; you will be able to get the best account whether it be so or not, and what business brings him thither. You will endeavour therefore to be informed with whom he converses, and in what manner, and whether the two brothers are with him.

"I am likewise told of one Charles Eden, son to Toby Eden, of the Exchequer Office, that he is lately gone to St. Germains; I hope you will find those who can satisfy us in the truth of it." (IV. 90.)

J. Van Leeuwen to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 13[–23]. Loo.—"You will be pleased to tell Bayley that he is to be continued as before, and as long as he shall deserve it. Pray acquaint him that I received his letter with the enclosed for His Excellency, and that he will continue upon the same foot. The money for him is to be remitted to you out of the privy purse.

"His Excellency [Portland] is willing to present you with a copy of his picture, and you have only to set Rigault at work without loss of time, for His Lordship is impatient to have the original. Be pleased to pay Rigault for your copy and place it at my account."

"His Majesty's departure for Cell is fixed upon this day sennight, the 30th inst., and accordingly all the *relais et voitures* are regulated and ordered already. I believe that it will be four weeks before the King can be back at Loo. His Majesty will be attended with a good number of persons of quality, as Mons. Ouverkerk, Lords Portland, Albemarle, Essex, Lexington, Raby, Monpouillan, Selkirk, Gatigny, Blathwayt and some others. The Duke [of Celle] makes great preparations for His Majesty's reception." (IV. 95.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 15[–25]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter of the 20th inst. to acknowledge. I care not how long your express is deferred that should bring us the news of the King

of Spain's death. We had rather you should hold on making mock camps and take Compiègne over and over, provided you let Barcelona and Madrid alone.

"I hear one Cavenagh is gone over lately who is son to a page of the back stairs at St. Germains. If you hear any account of him, you will let me know it, and whether he be employed as one of their ordinary messengers.

"I am told that my Lord Molyneux's eldest son and one Mr. Fenwick are lately come over hither. If they have been at St. Germains, I suppose you will have heard of it." (IV. 91.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 25. [N.S.] Loo.—Concerning the petition of Prévost and Bonnet, Canons of Orange, to King William to confirm their appointment to the benefices to which they were presented by King Louis during the interregnum.* Their case as well as that of the Abbess of St. André is warmly supported by the Bishop of Orange and the Ministers of the Court of France. His Majesty has acceded to their desire, but the Pope complains of an encroachment on the rights of the Church, and has notified the Commandant of Orange that, if the Canons are left in possession of their benefices, he will forbid all commerce between the County of Avignon and the Principality of Orange; although no complaint was made during the interregnum.

As His Majesty granted the confirmation as a favour to the Bishop and the Ministers, it is only right that they should use their influence at the Court of Rome to prevent the enforcement of the Pope's threat; and Mons. Blisson will give further information to Prior and Lord Jersey whereby Pomponne and Torcy may be induced to make representations to the Nuncio with this object. It should be pointed out that the Princes of Orange have enjoyed the *regale* within the Principality from time immemorial without opposition from the Papacy; and this is merely a case of confirmation. Further, if the interdict were put into execution, the inhabitants of the county would be the greater sufferers, as their possessions in the Principality exceed those of the Orangeois in the county. Lastly, it should be hinted that by reason of the good understanding which King William purposes to maintain with the King of France, it is his intention to nominate none but natives of Orange or Frenchmen of the neighbourhood recommended by the French Court to vacant benefices, so that it is to the interest of the French Court to prevent the Pope from impeding His Majesty's exercise of the *regale*.

The assistance of the Dutch Ambassadors at Paris and of Mons. de Vriberghen should also be solicited. *French. Signed.* (IV. 96–7.)

* *I.e.*, while the Principality was occupied by the French.

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, Sept 29. [N.S.] Paris.—"On Saturday my Lord Jersey had a private audience of the King in his closet, the Marquis de Torsi, Mons. de Saintôt and myself being only present; it was (as it used to be) a great deal of protestation of the King of France's side that he would cultivate the friendship and good correspondence with the King our Master, and do everything by which he might render my Lord Ambassador's stay here agreeable to him, but for all these fine words, King James and Queen Mary were at Versailles at six the same afternoon, and the Prince of Wales with the children at four. I had the curiosity in the afternoon, whilst my Lord Jersey was visiting some ladies, to be in the great apartments whilst the boy went by; I had only shatterheaded young Saintôt with me, whom I took for a chaperon; Your Excellency will imagine how my Lords Perth and Melford looked upon one who saw their Prince come by without paying him any respect. It was told (I perceived) to the child who I was: he is not handsome, but he is lively enough.

"Though this letter may be broken open, I think it may be written without any cipher, that in the sense of all understanding men, even of the French here, this Court makes a very ridiculous figure, whilst in the morning they receive an ambassador from the King of England, and are visited in the afternoon as they were on Saturday. At Fontainebleau there will be difficulties of this kind, which I do not see how they can get over, for it will be extremely odd for my Lord Jersey to stay behind whilst all the ambassadors go, and it will be very hard for His Excellency to be at the public meetings and assemblies there without seeing King James and his followers.

"This Court will have it that the King of Spain is better, and that he will be once more removed to Toledo.

"Everybody is very kind to Lord Jersey, my Governor is particularly so.

"My Lord goes again to Versailles to-morrow, and will, I believe, speak to Mons. Pomponne upon the affair, which appears so very senseless that the Court of France ought to be first in remedying it.

"Mons. d'Odyck took his leave of this Court yesterday." *Copy.* (XI. 224–6.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Oct. 1. [N.S.] Paris.—"My Lord Jersey has had his private audiences in the accustomed manner, and with all the satisfaction imaginable as to the exterior, but for all the fair words we had from the King on Saturday, King James and Queen Mary were at Versailles at six, afternoon, and the Prince of Wales was with the children at four. I had the curiosity, whilst my Lord Ambassador was visiting the ladies, to see the boy as he passed through the great apart-

ments. My Lord Perth and Melford were with him; you will imagine how they looked upon an Englishman that let their Prince pass by without taking any notice of him; it was told the boy, I perceived by his looking, who I was; he is not handsome, but he is very lively. I can tell you he is a true Papist, for I saw him say his prayers and cross himself before the altar. After all it is a ridiculous figure that the Court of France makes, halting thus between God and Baal. I know not what they will do at Fontainebleau, whither they have already invited King James and his Court, and where also my Lord Jersey will go and expect to be used with all the dignity that an English Ambassador should have; but by twenty things here I perceive they are mightily embarrassed about it. All my correspondents are out at their posts; so not having seen but one of them this week, I can only tell you in general that persons and letters come frequently from England to St. Germains, and that everybody is welcome that comes thither with a story from your side, though it be never so ridiculous. One of the Higgens has been here at Paris, and I am told has been privately at St. Germains. I have not heard of the others mentioned either in yours or in Mr. Ellis' letters." *Copy.* (XI. 226–8.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Oct. 4. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have had a fellow with me—his name is Dennis Kelly, his country Ireland—who per various causes came into France after the business of Limerick, has long been ill-used at St. Germains, was in England last winter, where he would have gotten some money of some Jacobites, or have discovered them to you, or anything for bread; but was chased from England by one Mrs. Chilton, who was laundress to the Prince of Wales, she frightening the fellow by telling him she had interest with Sir Stephen Fox and would have him lie in a jail; and the fellow being afraid, for that one witness in England is not sufficient, otherwise he would have discovered her and others who hold correspondence at St. Germains. This is the fellow's story as you will see by the enclosed papers which he has given me. The question is if anything he has here said, or that you think he can say is worthy of your hearing or your vouchsafing him a pardon. What he says for himself that looks in the least meritorious is that he knows all the faces that have appeared at St. Germains for seven years past." *Copy.* (XI. 230–1.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 26[–Oct. 6]. Whitehall.—"I should be glad to have a certain account what the person you mention has been doing at St. Germains. There is a rumour as if a great number of horses were lately gone thither. I question

whether any are so generous as to send them for presents. We heard a good deal of one Lewis in the Plot time who had been gentleman of the horse to my Lord Feversham: this person bought most of the horses for the assassination, and kept some of them in Somerset House stables. I am told he hath lately carried over a parcel of horses for Paris; if any of them go to St. Germains, it is not unlikely but those may be presents; as least the man will be well received for his former services." (IV. 92.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 27[–Oct. 7]. Dublin Castle.—Explaining the cause of his misunderstanding with Prior as to the salary of the First Secretary at Dublin, and promising to hand over such a share of the receipts of the office as Tucker shall think just to the person appointed by Prior to receive it. Is anxious to meet Prior in a reasonable spirit, so that the matter may go no further than themselves and Tucker. (IV. 93–4.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

1698, Oct. 7. [N.S.] Goeur [Goeree].—" J'ay bien receu vostre dernière du 22 passé. Il est certain que la déclaration du Roy de France, que vous m'avez envoyée, me semble estre contraire au traitté de Ryswyck et au commerce de la nation Anglaise aux Indes. Je ne sçay quel tour ils voudront donner à cela; je crains que nous ne soyons souvent subjet à des pareilles choses si dès le commencement l'on ne les peut arrester. Nous sommes ici depuis vendredi passé, et à la fin de la semaine prochaine je croys que le Roy sera de retour à Loo, j'espère que ma chaise et mes portraits seront prêts pour estre envoyez en Hollande avec le bagage de Mons. d'Odyck, je vous prie d'asseurer my Lord et my Lady Jersey de mes très humbles services." (IV. 102.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Oct. 8. [N.S.] Paris.—" The Mareschal de Villeroy spoke himself to the King that the houses might be open and the waterworks might play for my Lady Jersey: yet, after all, the deputy-officers were only attending, and not a drop of wine or coffee offered to us in the whole two days. So fast these people lose the merit of their civility to my Lord Portland, and so evidently it appears that their kindness to us was constrained, momentary, dissembled and unnatural.

" My Lord expects orders every day from our Court to go to Fontainebleau. I can't imagine what they will do with King James if we go; but let them look to that.

" I sent you last post a poor devil's petition: I think you may e'en have the whole Court of them, Lord Middleton and all, if you think it worth your while." *Copy.* (XI. 232.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Sept. 29[–Oct. 9]. Whitehall.—"I told you of Lewis carrying over horses. I hear most of them are said to be presents to the Comte de Roussy [Rouci La Rochefoucauld]: you will soon know whether he be the ultimate end.

"I am afraid Brocard is but an idle fellow, and bragged of more than ever he intended to perform." (IV. 98.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, Oct. 10. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have the honour of your letter of the 25th, and having communicated it to Mons. Blisson, am informed by him, as Your Excellency will see by his letter which I send enclosed, that the affair between the King and the Vice-Legate of Avignon has changed since the writing of your letter, and that no further step can be made in it till we shall receive His Majesty's orders upon what Mons. Blisson has written to Your Lordship of the 26th and 29th, upon which answers I shall obey your commands.

"Mons. Heemskirk and Mons. Vrybergen are at Fontainebleau; I suppose my Lord Jersey will go thither, and I shall follow His Excellency thither the next week (this being Friday), so that, as I presume your orders will come whilst I am there, we shall have opportunities of discoursing as well the Ministers as the Nonce at that place. 1478 [King James] and 1479 [Queen Mary] are doing some business: 1438 will send 984 one 45,9,63, 50, 55, 95, 72, 68 [Hamilton] and 984 is to protect his voyage, and thus Lady Bell is to write to Lady Essex. 984 shall hear more of it as it comes to anything.* Little people are always going and coming. Of all this I have informed Mr. Secretary, and send a man into England, who will not be useless, having known everybody here for seven years past.

"Mons. d'Odyck will set out from hence on Wednesday next; I do everything in my power to hasten the calesh and the pictures, but the Devil is in the workmen of Paris, they eternally promise and eternally deceive.

"The civilities of these people appear to have been forced; for all the mighty work they made when Your Excellency saw the King's houses, there was only a controller or two to show them to my Lord Jersey and his Lady, and as little *empressement* and civility as can be imagined." *Copy.* (XI. 233–5.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Oct. 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"Brocard has again been with me: he tells me 859, 480, 9, 1339, 1035, 209, 127, 1123d, 447, 832, 494, 429, 540, 209, 1454 489, 865, 465, 637, 1339. He knows not 525, but hopes he shall in some time. I know

* *Cf.* pp. 281, 284, 297, 307, 325, *infra.* The decipher, so far as positively ascertained, is :-- a, 9, b, 15, d, 27, e, 32, g, 42, h, 45, i or j, 50, l, 55, 58, m, 63, n, 68, o, 72, r, 84, 85, s, 89, t, 95, u or v, 102, y, 114. Some of the numbers are not resoluble into the cipher, nor otherwise interpretable.

not what to make of him. I have furnished him with the money he required of me, and will not send a letter he has written to you till I hear more perfectly what this thing can mean, and in that case you may expect a messenger; one cannot be too alert upon these occasions, but I know not what to make of friend Brocard: he is a riddle.

"As to the volunteer, I think we had best send him, for he can be of no use here, and possibly may do some service on your side. The man seems to have a great inclination to be honest: his parts indeed do not go very far. You may send him away again or do what you will with him, he thinks that only being hanged in England (which is the worst he can fear) is equivalent to being starved here; *quicquid praeter spem evenerit, omne id deputabit esse in lucro.*

"The Higgens, and some other of that gang are here: I think their bringing horses from England is only to sell them advantageously here, and most of the St. Germains people turn the penny this way.

"We have no orders yet from His Majesty about our going to Fontainebleau. I wish my brother Jimmy joy of his new honour.

"I hope, my warrant for the 500*l.* is returned. I know nothing can make my stay here agreeable but my Lord Jersey's being here. Give us whatever you can, we shall both come home beggars: for never were people so undone and so expensive as these of this Court." *Copy.* (XI. 239–41.)

Matthew Prior to Charles Boyle, Christopher Codrington and Spencer Compton.

1698, Oct. 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"I am glad, my good friends Boyle and Coddrington, that you stand so near each other that a man may take aim at you at once. I wish Compton had subscribed too, that one letter might have served you all three; for though I bustle about and pass for a man of business, I am as idle as the best of you. I must write to my correspondents, but for my friends I only trouble them when I have occasion for their help; these are my principles; you may act with me accordingly. I thank you, my dear Mr. Boyle (if you are so, but they say your brother is dead and you are an earl), for your hospitality to my ladies; some, you know, have received angels in the shape of strangers, but mine, I think, are flesh and blood, at least they pass for such at Paris; they are of that number that my Lord Hastings calls succulent ladies. What they came to do in England, God knows, if to plot, or upon some more innocent design. My Lord Portland, however, is obliged to you for your care and kindness in observing and visiting them, and so is his secretary." *Copy.*

"Colonel Coddrington, your father, is dead, and if you have not philosophy enough to sustain the loss, burn your Malebranche and wet your pocket handkerchief; but if you

are a true heir, come again to the Marais, where I have a little house and will receive you as I love you. Your Toriano is a little under the dominion of the moon; he will go to Montpellier because four doctors send him; he says, he intends to be cured of a consumption here, because he recovered of it last summer in England: the man, indeed, is whimsical, it is pity; he is gone forward, God speed him. I laughed at him as little as I could, which was all, I think, you could in reason expect from me." *Copy.*

"And thou, though last, not least in my affections, Spencer Compton, where dost thou live, or what dost thou do? Pray bid Robin resolve me this question. Hopkins is here and going to Italy. We remember you when we think of our friends in England. Adieu.

Postscript.—"My service to the Fish against he prints a new miscellany. I will, as I have promised him, look up some bad verses to hinder the sale of the book. Do they translate Lucan? or how do the Muses go forward?" (XI. 242–3.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Oct. 17. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have heard nothing more of what I wrote last to Your Excellency; if there be anything in it, the man will probably apply himself to me before he comes to Your Excellency, or if he comes to Your Excellency, the hint I have given by the character will be sufficient. I wrote no plainer, because I take it for granted that all my letters are broke open; it is for this reason that I do not send you word of two or three other things of this kind of which I write to Mr. Secretary.

"King James and his Queen were never better received or more courted than they are at present at Fontainebleau; everybody goes to her toilette, and as soon as she is dressed, the King of France waits on her from her own apartment to Mass: at table the two old gentlemen and she in the middle sit at the top, and in the evening the Court is made to her as if she were Queen Regent. This one may write without character, for if anybody should break it open, they would find only that the conduct of this Court is extremely ridiculous; I have told some here that it is very far from giving us any jealousy, but they might give us leave to laugh at it.

"We expect His Majesty's orders to my Lord Jersey to-morrow concerning his going to Fontainebleau, which will, I think, a little embarrass these people.

"Salieaux promises me most faithfully that the calesh shall be ready and packed up by to-morrow night; so that I shall send it with Mons. d'Odyck's things on Sunday morning; but the pictures that stuttering rogue Rygault will not, or (as he says) cannot finish so soon; and indeed I know not when he will, for he has a vast deal of work upon his hands." *Copy.* (XI. 245–6.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon

1698, Oct. 18. [N.S.] Paris.—"We have no orders yet from Zell, or wherever else our Court may be, for our going to Fontainebleau, but reckoning from the date of the letters we wrote for that purpose, we expect an answer to-day or to-morrow.

"Our friends of St. Germains shine extremely at Fontainebleau: all the court is made to Queen Mary; everybody is at her toilette in the morning, from whence the King of France leads her to chapel: the two Kings and the Queen in the midst sit at the head of the table at dinner with equal marks of distinction and sovereignty, and '*à boire pour le Roi d'Angleterre!*' *ou* '*pour la Reine*' is spoke as loud and with the same ceremony as '*pour le Roi*' when they mean their own King. It is really not a right figure which we make, being here at Paris whilst all the other ministers are at Court; and on the other side, I know not what we should do there, or how behave ourselves in a place where the two Courts are inseparable.

"Monsieur and Madame returned on Thursday to Fontainebleau, and the Duchess of Lorraine began her journey to Bar the same day.

"Mons. d'Odyck sets out to-day or to-morrow with his family towards Holland.

"The King of Spain's health is so well confirmed that we begin not to inquire so much about it.

"I have sent Brocard to Fontainebleau, and have heard nothing from him since his going." *Copy.* (XI. 247–8.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Pembroke.

1698, Oct. 20. [N.S.] Paris.—"The King of Spain's health, about which we have been chiefly solicitous, is so well established as that he walks abroad, and is as likely to live now as he has been at any time for some years past. For all the preparations this Court makes in case he should die, they will not, I think, be too hasty in precipitating themselves into a new war when it comes to the push. Their King is old, and though he seems healthful enough in his eating and walking, he has vapours and distempers, which fly up to his head and will not suffer him to apply himself much to business: this those about him keep as a very great secret, but I have undoubted reason to believe it true. His gardening, building walls, laying pipes, making reviews, going from Marly to Versailles, from thence to Fontainebleau, then to Chantilly and so back again, shows a more than ordinary desire of seeking variety, and confirms a good deal his being hindered from a strict application to any one thing. The people, too, at least the most thinking part of them, have had time enough since the Peace to reflect that their estates are ruined and their wealth drained for an imaginary notion of glory, which sunk a good deal in their Monarch's giving up

two and thirty towns to make a peace, so that the rumour of cavaliering is damped amongst them, and at least they would not begin a new war so heartily, though indeed, if the Court would have it, the rest are so little masters of their fortunes that they must obey, and give to the last *sou* in the nation.

"The King has a great sum of money in his coffers; he pays great use for it, and by doing so has brought matters to that pass that nobody can dispose of their money so advantageously any other way, as they can in bringing it in to him; especially considering that employments and preferments are disposed of to the sons and relations of such persons as the intendants and financiers give the best account of. This, my Lord, is a continuation of Louvois' maxim of making the King absolute and the people poor; but it has been followed long enough already, and I question if they can hold out another war, I mean against good part of Europe reunited, except upon different maxims.

"The reasons why they do not open a free commerce are, I think, that their ministers do not understand it, and that (however they may chicane) they cannot well do it before they lower their coin to its just value.

"Things go in relation to us as they used to do: they are civil to us and hate us, and they are civil to King James and despise him. . . . . .

"What is more to be apprehended from our acquaintance of St. Germains than anything the French Court can give them is their own innate illness and desire of mischief, for I may tell Your Lordship, they never will be quiet whilst there is a man to be had whose ambition, bigotry or despair will set him upon an assassination: it is this that puts me into eternal alarms, and indeed makes me acquainted with half the starving English and Irish about Paris, for it is impossible to be too alert in things of this nature, and it is only from them that I fear anything that King James or King Louis can do to us.

"For all the caresses this Court, in imitation of their Master, make to King James it is incredible what true respect and veneration they bear to King William (as they call him) and his merit, and how the soldiers particularly speak of him. '*Le premier homme de son métier*'! '*Le plus beau prince du monde!*' are the least things they say of him; and when they are free and in company where they dare venture to call things by their own names, they downright talk of their monarch much at the rate we did of King James a little before he left us.

"These are only some and really some of the best, but the generality of the nation are empty, superficial, ill people, just fit to be oppressed and misused as they are.

"My Lord Jersey will not make his entry or have his audience till the Court returns from Fontainebleau. He has written to Loo to know His Majesty's pleasure as to his going to

Fontainebleau ; which will be odd enough, I confess, whilst King James is there, and indeed it is likewise so that His Excellency stays away, since everybody may guess the reason of it. In his private audiences he has been received with all kindness and distinction by the Grand Monarch : how can any man of sense reconcile this man's way of acting in the meantime in relation to King James ?

Quo teneam toties mutantem Protea nodo ?

" We have married Mademoiselle de Chartres and sent her away to her Duke. She is a virtuous, well-educated Princess, not handsome, but very agreeable. I do not hear great praise of the Duke of Lorraine, her husband." *Copy.* (XI. 249–55.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Oct. 20. N.S. Paris.—" I formerly acquainted Your Excellency that I had communicated to Mons. Blisson the substance of your letter of the 25th September : I have done the like to Mons. Vriberghen, who is at Fontainebleau, as is likewise Mons. Heemskirk, and they, having by this time had your answers to their letters of fresher dates, are, I presume, in a condition to give Your Excellency an account of the *ecclésiastique* of Orange. I have not been at Fontainebleau, my Lord Jersey waiting (as I have told Your Excellency) His Majesty's orders thereupon : but I can tell you from those that have been there, that King James continues still the very same man we always took him to be. The other day at his levée talking of the King our Master :—' The Prince of Orange,' says he, ' is gone a great journey ; 'tis four days from Loo, but it is a great way from England : how can he be away so long ? ' and another time, speaking of his little daughter :—' I intend,' says he, ' to send her to Poissy ; there she shall learn Latin, that is, as much as to make her understand where the priest is when he says the Mass, for it is convenient that a Catholic child of her quality should be instructed very soon in her religion.' Thus wisely, my Lord, he talks. The Modena and Mantua envoys are constantly at his levée, and the French, though they have no respect for him, make court to him because their monarch does ; Your Excellency knows very well the genius of these people."

" I hope the calesch will come safe and to Your Excellency's satisfaction.

" The Abbé d'Effiat is dead." *Copy.* (XII. 1–3.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Oct. 24. [N.S.] Paris.—" I have the honour of Your Excellency's letter of the 7th, and Mons. Heemskirk sent me your packet of the 1–11 from Fontainebleau, where he continues with the Court. His Majesty's directions to my Lord Jersey for his going thither came but the day before King James left that Court ; His Excellency was therefore of opinion that his going then would look as if he had only

stayed till King James was returned from thence, and upon the whole I believe he will hardly go except he has some business great enough to justify his doing so."

"The Nonce and the Venetian Ambassadors have both had some little affair with the Court about being placed at the recital of an opera, but since neither of them are very able ministers or very well-bred men, it is no great matter if the Court or they were in the right; but it is with some concern that I tell Your Lordship that Mons. Heemskirk has behaved himself there unworthy his age or character in coming to the King's supper after he had drank, and exposing himself by twenty indecencies. This indeed is right nowhere, but less so here than in any part of the world. Your Lordship knows these people and the nicety of living with them, which, as far as I hear, this ambassador has been very far from regarding: but this I only say to you, my Lord and Master, and you will be pleased to manage it, for I have no more to say to it than that I wish everything that relates to the common union between Holland and England may be worthy of the great monarch that commands both." *Copy.* (XII. 16–17.)

H. May to J[ohn] Tucker.

1698, Oct. 15[–25]. Dublin.—"I think . . . . . that I told you in London what my Lord Galway said in relation to Mr. Prior's deputing me, and also that I sent you word from Chester of their having pitched on me to act during his absence, but I confess I did not then (as I should have done) desire you to intimate it to him, nor did I then insist upon it formally to him. Therefore, though my Lords told me then and since that they designed me the whole profits, I condemn myself and think that by my neglect I have forfeited the right I had, and have sent him word . . . . . that, for that reason, whatever part you say I shall remit to him for the time past, I will immediately do it."

"But for the time to come it is another thing, and I think I have an indisputable right: yet . . . . . I will own to you . . . . I am afraid my Lords have not interest enough to preserve me that right, since they have not been able to maintain their own in the same case; and for that reason, if the future terms he shall propose be such as I can comply with, I believe I must waive the right they give me; and then I am sure I shall earn hard enough what part I am to retain, especially considering the retrenchments [which] have been made of our profits." *Copy.* (IV. 107.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Oct. 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I have yours of the 18th, N.S., to acknowledge. I hope Brocard will have acquitted himself well of the commission you gave him. I

know not why you should be out of humour at your not going to Fontainebleau ; perhaps you might have been more mortified if you had gone thither. Has it not been sometimes practised to make sudden changes from high caresses to as great indifference.

"Sir James Forbes gives me the enclosed to send you, it being for the service of my Lord Orford and Lady Russell. Mons. d'Alonne and Dr. Lister had undertaken to get them some trees, but I suppose, the money not being left, the gardener stays for ready payment. If that be the case, you are desired to lay down what the trees come to, and I will repay it again ; and let the trees be hastened away, provided they can be here by the middle of November ; or otherwise the season for planting will be past, and they will not have the trees at all, and you will keep your money."

"Dr. Lister has lately printed his *Journey to Paris*, in which he tells us he had rather see Mons. Breman working in his garden in a white waistcoat than see Mons. Saintôt making room for an ambassador." (IV. 108.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

1698, Oct. 28. [N.S.] Loo.—"Je vous remercie de vostre exactitude à m'escrire ; je puis vous asseurer que vous aymant et estimant comme je fais, tout ce qui me vient de vous m'est cher. Nous sommes revenus Jeudi passé de Cell ; le voyage et le mouvement continuel m'a empêché de de vous escrire plus souvent. Je n'ay encore rien appris de la chose dont vous m'avez escrit en chyffre ; le traittement extraordinairement civil que l'on fait à 1478 [King James] et à 1479 [Queen Mary] est une mauvaise marque. Je croy que devant que vous recevrez celle-ci, My Lord Jersey sera parti en poste pour venir ici, comme je le lui ay escrit de la part du Roy par deux fois, de peur qu'une lettre ne se perdît." (IV. 114).

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Oct. 20[–30]. Whitehall.—"I will make some enquiry into La Fay's correspondence with Renaudot : I hardly believe at present that these impertinences come from him. It is certain there is some malicious or ignorant coxcomb that supplies them with nonsensical lies and stories. That about the East India Company's refusing to send chaplains for their factories was so far taken notice of at Council as to send for the translator and publisher of those pieces, who having otherwise the character of poor harmless fellows, they were dismissed upon their assurances that they would meddle no more with such an author. There was never a lie told that was so easy to be contradicted ; the Company very readily consented that their sending of chaplains should be inserted in their charter, and of themselves they desired that the Archbishop would appoint the chaplains,

which he endeavoured with great modesty to decline, as thinking it belonged to the Bishop of London's province." (IV. 109.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, Nov. 3. [N.S.] Paris —" I had little news in my last but that I was waiting on my Lord Jersey to Fontainebleau. We arrived there in the evening, and I went to Mons. de Torsi, to tell him of my Lord's arrival, and that he desired the favour to speak a word to the King that night. Mons. de Torsi said it was utterly impossible, the King being prepared for his devotions the next day, which was All Saints', but my Lord afterwards telling Mons. de Torsi the reason, His Excellency had a private audience in the King's cabinet about 10 at night, and the next morning we came away for Paris.

" My Lord set out post yesterday and will be with Your Excellency very near as soon as this letter ; his voyage to Loo has a good deal alarmed these people, who are curious even to impertinence and desiring to know the reason of it.

" The Mareschal de Villeroy has a fever ever since he sustained the operation, which, to a man of his age, (*ne l'en déplaise*) may prove dangerous.

" Mons. d'Armagnac and Count Marsan are returned from Bar le Duc.

" I am glad the Monarch repeated to Lord Jersey his resolutions to keep the Peace the very night before he took the Sacrament, though, I confess, one can hardly reconcile this with his great kindness to King James. I have heard that our St. Germains friends are removing to Chambour [Chambord], but I know not as yet what credit is to be given to the report.

" I cannot forbear sending Your Lordship the most impertinent article in the Paris *Gazette* that ever was written ; one would think that England was in famine and rebellion, by what l'Abbé Renedeaut [Renaudot] says of us : if my Lord Jersey were here I should venture to advise him to speak a word of this to the Ministers, but as he is not I will do nothing without order." *Copy.* (XII. 21–23.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Nov. 5. [N.S.] Paris.—" I have the honour of two from you of the 17th and 20th. I was not so dissatisfied at my own not being at Fontainebleau as at other people's being there ; it may happen that these caresses may end in indifference, but as yet I see nothing towards it besides a flying report (how true God knows) that these people are removing to Chambour [Chambord].

" The article from London in the last Paris *Gazette* could not be written with more *venin* if it were in the middle of the war. Renedaut's [Renaudot's] correspondent in Holland is de Tournel, the Gazettier at The Hague ; he is known to have

a pension from hence. I have seen original letters of his writing in which he desires the *commis* here in the office to send him word what they would have inserted in his *Gazette* and what omitted, and others in which he gives them here particular accounts of what passes in Holland, and this with all the subtilty and malice imaginable: of this the Dutch Ambassador and the Pensionnaire of Holland have been made acquainted; if they will remedy it, they may; *liberavi animam meam.*

"It would be worth knowing what correspondence de La Faye holds with Renedeaut, or where the abbé has his good intelligence of our affairs. I have sent Mr. James Forbes to Butterfield, and shall by next post answer you about the plants.

"I must needs see Dr. Lister's reflexions upon his voyage, pray do me the favour to let Mr. Payzant put it up. I should not have dared to trouble you but that you mention it.

"My Lord Jersey, having commanded me to break open your letters to him, lest the business might suffer by anything that should be done immediately here, I have done so, and own the receipt of yours to him of the 17th and 20th. We will do the best for Rachel Legg; there are a great many more in her case. It is a thing of *meum* and *tuum* between private persons, and if she has no lawyer to solicit her affair here, I fear our remonstrance will produce little more than *on verra* and a civil answer; if she has anybody here, I shall back their solicitations with a strong memorial, and show in this, as I would in everything, the great regard I have to your orders.

"I have not seen Brocard since; they are very quiet here about Jennings' affairs." *Copy.* (XII. 25–27.)

J[ohn] Tucker to Matthew Prior.

1698, Oct. 27[–Nov. 6]. London.—"The enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from Mr. May on Monday last, but being very ill of the gout, I could not by that night's post send it to you. . . . . His expectation has been all the profits, he tells you upon what reasons; and yours almost as much the contrary for not having sooner been acquainted with those reasons. You must consider I have a difficult game to play. Whatever is taken from him he thinks he loses, and is hard upon him; and it is almost the exact contrary with you; which might have been prevented had you both been so happy as to have seen each other and adjusted the *quantum* together at the beginning."

"I cannot answer that he will not think himself partially used if more than half be taken from him; and partiality is a censure I would not justly incur from anybody, much less two friends. Pray take not amiss what I say to you, but send me your own sentiments; you know as much as I do from Mr. May."

Postscript.—"You will see something in Mr. May's letter which seems to open a secret, but I beg you to make no ill use of it. You see, I trust my credit with you, and I hope you will preserve it by burning the copy when you have read it." (IV. 113.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Nov. 7. [N.S.] Paris.—"Bayly has been with me again. Sir William Jennings leaving St. Germains has surprised them there more than it can do Mr. Secretary and those of Whitehall: 1478 [King James] has spoke of it with astonishment. I have reason to think that others would follow Sir William's example if they thought there would be the least hopes of their being received or not proceeded against with vigour in England.

"I have heard no more of the correspondence which I mentioned to you in cypher; the messenger is not yet dispatched, and that affair sleeps; others are continually going to and coming from England, of which I give Mr. Secretary what accounts I can from time to time. I continue Bayly's pension to him.

"Herbert,* King James's Chancellor, died [two nights since, and (which is ridiculous enough) people are putting in for that great employment.

"The Marquis de Villeroy is something better; his fever quits him and he sleeps, the inflammation that attended his operation being very much assuaged." *Copy.* (XII. 42.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

1698, Nov. 8. [N.S.] Paris.—"I am to meet with Brocard this evening; I have a strange foreboding of spirit that he will rather want more money than tell me anything that may deserve it: if you think there is truth in what he has already said, and that he is really diving into a mystery of iniquity, he must be well allowed; but if he be playing the fool with us, he has had too much already; you will be pleased to intimate your orders to me, which shall be obeyed, and possibly by to-night's conversation I shall nearer observe and judge of the man.

"I had another correspondent with me yesterday, and from him I hear that some people are lately gone from this side; one Adams, he was formerly an upholsterer and made a captain by King James for being a violent Roman Catholic; his wife makes *manteaux* and lives in St. Martin's Lane, where he may probably be heard of; one Berkely, he lives at Marybone; Shirly, who may be heard of in Norfolk Street, at his brother-in-law's. I know not the name of this brother, but he is an attorney and a Lancashire man; one Greenway, but where he inhabits or frequents I cannot learn. Holmes is likewise in England.

* *I.e.*, Sir Edward Herbert, to whom James gave the title of Earl of Portland.

"One Walcup, a man of some estate at Vittering, about four miles from Edinburgh, remits money to the few that have any at St. Germains. Herbert, King James' Chancellor, died two days since of an apoplexy at a little house he had near St. Germains; they pretend to be sorry for his death, though they despised and neglected him when alive, for he remained a Protestant, so none of his services were held meritorious, and his goods works went for nothing for want of faith. The living Protestants at St. Germains are all witnesses of this gratitude of their Court; others will follow Sir William Jennings' steps, and rather venture hanging in England than be certain of starving here. They seem mightily surprised at St. Germains that Jennings had quitted them; if King James knew anything of it, he is a better hypocrite than I take him to be. I shall take care of your plants and forward them as soon as I receive them, which I think will be within these two days." *Copy.* (XII. 43.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF BERKELEY.

1698, Nov. 8. [N.S.] Paris.—"Captain Cowper brought me some time since a letter which Your Lordship wrote in his behalf; he could not have a stronger recommendation to engage me in his business, which is likely to go well, for he has had a favourable sentence in the Admiralty, and an appeal which his adversaries have brought against that sentence will, I think, be invalidated by the Council.

"I cannot play the Minister enough to write you a letter of condolence, nor am I very sorry that my answer to a letter subscribed Dursely must be directed to the Earl of Berkely. I would not, however, have such revolutions too frequent, and though I wish very well to the present Lord Dursely, I would have him keep that title yet this fifty years, except Your Lordship should have a higher, and giving him the wearing of this of Berkely in your own lifetime. I hope the Earl has spoiled the Ambassador, and that you do not think of going to Constantinople, but of enjoying yourself and your friends in England, for I would not have you drink coffee but between Vicar's and Garraway's, except your own affairs are mightily bettered by your so doing. I must always give my most obedient respects to my admirable Lady, that excellent pattern to women whom nobody in this age follows, and to Lady Mary, who, I hope, has read Epictetus enough not to be puffed up with worldly honour; to Lady Betty and Lady Penn I say nothing, for I suppose these two are so proud as not to accept of service that anything below a knight can send them, for which reason I would have them know that one day or other I will desire the King to lay his sword upon my shoulders." *Copy.* (XII. 45.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [DR. WILLIAM] AGLIONBY.

1698, Nov. 8. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have the favour of your letter of the 20th past, and should have told you so last

post, but that I had not Mons. Pajot's answer about your plants ; but since you have it before now, it is the same thing, you are to take your measures upon it, and as far as your commands reach me, you are sure they shall be obeyed.

"I blunder more than my secretary (as you call him) did, for I cannot find his blunder out, though I have read over the copy of my letters to the Commissioners : if it was essential, pray point it out to us ; if it was no great matter, excuse a young clerk if he does not mend his fault before he knows it.

"My Lord Jersey's voyage to Loo has set these people mightily upon the enquiry ; they will not let a man make a step but it must be upon some *politique* account ; one cannot go to the opera but they imagine that it is rather to mind who are in the boxes than what is done upon the theatre ; and if you visit a lady, it is certainly to meet some spy or minister there. *Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur :* they will make me a cunning fellow like the *médecin malgré luy* in the comedy, whatever I can say to the contrary.

"You are mistaken in Sir Joseph [Williamson], if you think he has another fetch in the matter before he leaves his 100*l* per week : he says it is too late in the year, and he cannot venture to take a voyage till the Spring. *Agnosces hominem.*

"I am glad old Mathusalem is sleeping with his fathers, and that our Dauphin Dursely reigns in his stead. I never found two letters so hard to write as one of condolence to him for the death of his father, and one to Mr. Mountague* upon the death of his wife. Who goes to Constantinople, if the Earl (as you say) has spoiled the Ambassador ?† And what the Devil could Dr. Lister of the Old Palace write concerning the city of Paris except that Notre Dame Church stands in the Isle, and King Henry's statue upon Pont-neuf ? Adieu, I would give 10 *louis d'ors* to talk with you as many hours ; and that is fairly bid, considering I might have the company of the finest woman here as long for half the money." *Copy.* (XII. 47.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Galway.

1698, Nov. 13. [N.S.] Paris.—"La Cour ne revint de Fontainebleau qu'hier : on n'y a guère parlé que de chevaux et de la chasse, ni rien fait de sérieux, si non de faire l'examen de quelques particularités touchant les finances. On n'a pas pu raccommoder l'affaire du tariffe avec les Hollandois, les commissaires François n'y ayant pas apporté la moindre facilité ; aussi n'en avoient ils eu le pouvoir jusques icy, ' mais en peu de jours,' dit on, ' Mons. de Pontchartrain leur en donnera un autre plus ample, et on recommencera tout de

* *I.e.*, Charles Montagu, afterwards Earl of Halifax. *Cf.*, Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation*, iv. 407.

† *Cf.* ib. 464, 514.

bon ' : en effet, Milord, les maximes des Ministres icy sur l'affaire du traffique et de la monoye sont tout à fait particulières et bizarres : ce que je ferois comprendre a votre Excellence si j'avois l'honneur de vous entretenir une heure dans votre cabinet au lieu de vous écrire une lettre qui pourroit estre interceptée et ouverte. Nous nous sommes bien dispensés de faire nos révérences à Fontainebleau, car pendant une partie du temps que la Cour y étoit le Roy Jacques s'y trouvoit aussi, et jamais n'a-t-il eu plus d'honneur ni de distinction que cette fois-cy ; et nous ne voulions pas aller après qu'il fut de retour, quoiqu'on nous donnât suffisamment à entendre que nous aurions été les très bien venus. Tout ce que Milord Jersey fit c'étoit d'y aller dire à Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne qu'il étoit sur le point de se rendre en poste à Loo, conformément aux ordres qu'il avoit reçu du Roy son Maître, et qu'il s'étoit cru obligé de venir prendre congé de Sa Majesté, et de se charger des ordres dont elle trouveroit bon de l'honorer. En effet, Milord ne restoit à Fontainebleau que le même soir qu'il y arriva, mais revint le lendemain matin à Paris, et prit la poste le jour suivant pour Loo.

" Milord partit d'icy le Dimanche, 2 de ce mois : je pourray avoir la nouvelle de son arrivée demain. Le voyage d'un Ambassadeur fait de la sorte avant son audience publique fait beaucoup raisonner aux politiques icy, et le moindre sujet qu'on en allègue, c'est ou que nous allons recommencer la guerre, ou que nous nous entendons déjà avec la France sur la succession d'Espagne, et que Milord a pris son voyage chargé des sentimens de Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne là dessus. Je les laisse raisonner sans leur dire si je sçay la véritable raison du voyage de Milord ou non. Je croy même qu'il y a quelque chose de grande conséquence sur le tapis, mais tout ce que je sçay de certain, c'est que le Roy avoit promis à Milord avant son départ d'Angleterre qu'il viendroit le joindre en Hollande, et que Sa Majestés' est dégagée de cette promesse de la manière du monde la plus obligeante ; mais aussi la manière seule où on en agit icy envers le Roy Jacques feroit justifier assez le voyage de Milord, car, pendant que cet infortuné Prince se trouve dans toutes les parties de plaisir que cette Cour fait, il est tout à fait nécessaire qu'un Ambassadeur d'Angleterre soit pleinement instruit de la volonté de son Maître, comment il se devroit comporter dans une conjuncture si délicate.

" Le Roy notre Maistre sera à la Haye le 15 ième : il n'y fera pas un long séjour avant que de s'embarquer pour l'Angleterre. Mons. d'Allonne est pourveu de la charge de Secrétaire pour les affaires d'Hollande : il l'avoit mérité même avant la mort de Van Zalichem. Je ne sçay par quelle raison on l'a gardé vacante depuis. L'Electeur de Bavière a chassé avec le Roy à Loo ; ainsi quand on me prône la Cour de Fontainebleau où tous les Princes du Sang se sont trouvés (et à la verité elle étoit fort splendide), je fais entendre que les Electeurs de

Bavière et de Hanovre, les Ducs de Zell et de Wolfenbüttel n'ont rien négligé pour faire leur cour au Roy d'Angleterre.

" A cette heure, Milord, il est bien tems que je vous demande pardon de vous avoir importuné de nos affaires pendant que vous êtes si occupé de celles du Royaume que vous gouvernez ; c'est avec beaucoup de joye que je voy que les esprits commencent à se calmer, et que les affaires prennent le train qu'il faut ; tout ira bien, Milord, on n'en doute point, *Teucro duce et auspice Teucro.* Je voudrois bien être en Irlande, Milord, si les affaires du Roy me le permettoient, et je ne travaillerois jamais de meilleur cœur que sous la protection et par les commandemens de Milord Gallway." *Copy.* (XII. 49–53.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [ABEL ?] D'ALLONNE.

1698, Nov. 14. [N.S.] Paris.—" I ought to chide you, my dear Master d'Alonne, for not giving me notice in form of your new preferment, but I am so perfectly taken up with the joy of your obtaining it that I have no time to be angry. I hope hereafter you will have a better opinion of my judgment than you have had, and think that now at least I know if a man has extraordinary virtue and merit when the King in the face of all the world does me the justice to confirm my opinion. You may e'en turn away Dr. Lister, for His Majesty is the best physician in Christendom, and you will find that being fretted and teased in a good employment is a more sovereign remedy against the spleen than saffron in your sack or harts-horn drops in your coffee." *Copy.* (XII. 55.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER.

1698, Nov. 14. [N.S.] Paris.—" Since the Court has been at Fontainebleau very little business has been done of any kind ; the King of Spain is so likely to live that we begin to be less inquisitive about his health, and all is seemingly in so great a calm that we forget our apprehensions of its being otherwise.

" For all the outward civilities paid to my Lord Jersey, and the private audiences he has had, King James and his Queen were at Fontainebleau half the time of the Court's being there, and never received with more distinction. My Lord Jersey, you will judge, had a very just excuse not to go thither, whilst probably he might meet them, and indeed could not well avoid them without absenting himself from the King's dinner and supper ; and after they were returned to Paris, and from thence to Chaliot [Chaillot] and St. Germains, his Excellency thought fit not to go, though by twenty things underhand one might see that the Court desired it. They were a good deal surprised when my Lord came only overnight to take his leave of the King, and to desire to know what commands His Majesty had to the King our Master, for that my Lord was returning the next morning to Paris in order to his taking post for Loo according to the commands that the King our Master had intimated to him

by letter. My Lord was received very graciously and extremely charged with the King of France's compliments to His Majesty, and in effect parted the next day, which was Sunday, the 2nd of this instant, post for Loo. I expect to hear to-morrow of his safe arrival there.

"Your Excellency will easily imagine the various discourses this sudden voyage of my Lord Jersey causes here. The least the people will have is either that we are beginning the war again, or that the business of Spain is adjusted between us and France, and that my Lord has this King's sentiments to declare at his arrival at Loo to the King of England; both these opinions are in extremes; according to my little judgment, it is not to be expected that we should be asleep in a time when we see France not disband any troops, and draw good part of those they have towards the confines of Spain; and there is nothing mighty extraordinary for a man of my Lord Jersey's quality and character to be sent for by his Master to be particularly instructed how he should behave himself in his embassy; especially since these people make our conduct here extremely hard to manage, and such instructions very necessary by their behaviour in everything to those of St. Germains.

"I would write plainer to Your Excellency upon this head, but that I fear my letter may be opened before you receive it, for these people make no scruple of anything in this kind.

"The sole affair upon which this Court is at present intent is the correcting of former edicts and publishing new ones for raising money for the King without great consideration of the subject. For this reason most of the financiers and projectors are in conference with Mons. de Pontchartrain; their regulation of the tariff in order to open a trade with Holland is at a stand. I take the true cause of this stop to be not so much the difference between the tariff of '64 and that of '66, or the advantage the Dutch would make by France's consenting to the former, but that indeed France cannot open a trade upon any terms with its neighbours till her money is upon an equal foot with theirs. The Ministers, one may be assured, will equivocate as long as they can, and will be very unwilling to confess this reason till they have some prospect of curing the evil.

"For the rest, the French do not disband their troops as fast as we could wish, and they are taking care of the reparations of their fleets; their renewing a good understanding with Sweden I take to be for that purpose. It was very much said that Mons. d'Allonne was to have stayed here, but he has the Dutch Secretaryship which has been vacant since Van Zulichem's death, which is a post as much more easy as it is more profitable. I know nothing so uncomfortable as to be at a Court where one is obliged to be eternally upon one's guard, and under the orders of a Treasury that leave the Ministry

so far in arrears. I hope to be rid of these things, and to pay my duty to Your Excellency where one has at least some ease and some ready money." *Copy.* (XII. 56–60.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698], Nov. 4[–14]. Loo.—" My Lord Jersey est ici, je suis ravy de ce que Mons. le Maréchal de Villeroy est hors de danger. Je ne comprens pas bien quelle est la Commission pour les affaires régulières et séculières, où B[rocard] me dit de pouvoir entrer, ni quel service il pourroit nous i rendre qui valait l'argent qu'il demande, et que l'on ne peut donner sans hasard de nous voir abusé ; je vous prie de m'en vouloir informer, afin que l'on se puisse résoudre. L'hyver commence ici plustost que jamais, de mesme qu'il a fini plus tard en France." (IV. 117.)

John Woolhouse to Matthew Prior.

1698, Nov. 16. [N.S.] St. Germains.—" 'Tis not the Englishman's good nature, the Westminster genius, or the Cantabrigian air and literature, qualities common to you with others, that induce me heartily to rejoice for your temporal prosperity : your own merits, innate candour, generosity, charity, and other personal endowments, as they are the sole motives of my compliment of sincere congratulation, so I doubt not but they will give it a favourable reception without exacting more explicit terms than what two honest Christian friends and old acquaintance of contrary faiths and interests may without breach of common civility and amicable correspondence mutually require one from the other."

" I know not but that your station will not permit me free access till you are acquainted how I have lived since the Revolution ; wherefore it may not be from the purpose to give you the following account.

" Ever since the King my Master left England I have constantly attended him in quality of groom of his privy chamber, as well in Ireland as in France, excepting about three years' time which he granted me to study at Paris, Avignon, Montpellier, Pisa and Rome, and the late eight months I spent at Mons, Brussels, Maastricht, Aix la Chapelle, Liége, Cologne, etc., in the exercise of my profession of oculist, to which art I have more particularly applied myself as well in my private studies as in my public at those universities ever since the Revolution. . . . . I do above thirty manual operations peculiarly belonging to the organ of sight, and treat likewise all the curable diseases of the 158 incident to that part, that are to be remedied by internal medicines such as either Galenic or chymical physicians use to ordain. I have made it my business to cull and abstract this ophthalmiatric art from the body of medics and surgery, and made one separate science thereof without concerning myself with any other parts of the said professions as to the

practice. I have heard there was formerly some such proposition made to the Royal Society, which was universally applauded, but, I think, not executed; for our able men in England, however particular and confined their private studies may be, do abroad aim at all things; nor is there anyone in the whole kingdom pretends to what I profess and perform: so that (God be praised) I am singularly useful in my generation, and give sight to those that are blind of cataracts, *gutta serenas*, pearls and many other ocular maladies. I have recovered those that have been blind 25 years, and cured those that have been born blind, and old people of 80 years: in fine I should be too prolix if I descended to particulars; it may suffice that public fame acknowledges me what I profess in a strange country: though my talent is buried in this village, where I am confined by my station, being in constant waiting on His Majesty, who has no other Groom of the Privy Chamber but myself.

"This, with my desire of marrying in England, makes me very uneasy here and wish for a permission to live undisturbed in my native country, to whom I would gladly sacrifice the fruits of my travails, studies, discoveries and experiences. I have seen too much of the world to meddle or make with State affairs or strive against the stream; and if the Government would give me leave to return, I would never give them cause to repent it, and I would be obliged to treat all blind and sore-eyed curable poor people *gratis*."

Was not present with King James at La Hogue, Calais or the Boyne, and has never borne arms. Was disinherited by his father for turning Catholic, and is so impoverished by his course of studies and "purchasing ophthalmic secrets," that he is not "in a capacity of making any handsome gratification," but will bind himself to pay 500*l.* in eight or nine years' time by several payments to anyone who will procure his return. Requesting that the answer may be secret, since any knowledge of this negotiation at St. Germains would be prejudicial to him. (XX. 58.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Nov. 7[–17]. Whitehall.—"I can't tell whether you know one Major La Rue, who was an officer in the Duke of Berwick's Troop of Guards; he is father to La Rue, who gave evidence about the intended assassination. He came over about a fortnight ago to see his son, and, as he says, to be a party in a suit that his son hath in Chancery. When I first heard it, I designed to take him into custody as being here contrary to the Act, but understanding that he was neither naturalized nor a denizen, I had recourse to the Lords Justices to let them know his circumstances, and by their directions I told him on Friday last that he must depart the kingdom immediately. He desired that he might stay only four days to put an answer into Chancery, and when

he saw I could alter nothing of the orders given, he applied to their Excellencies for so short a respite, which will be connived, but any stay beyond that will be at his peril.

"By the manner he talks to me he is like to make all the noise he can and cry out against the severity used towards the French, and would be glad it were retaliated upon some of His Majesty's subjects on that side, and we should not complain of it if they find any in the like case and treat him no worse. This man has lived about forty years, married two English women successively, and turned Protestant; he quitted us at the Revolution and hath served ever since again [*sic*]. His command was in a troop from whence all the cut-throats were detached to act the blackest of villanies. He hath renounced the Protestant religion, and when his son made his discovery, he urged it as his merit that what he did therein would forfeit his father's kindness to him; whenever, therefore, you hear this matter spoken of, you will be able to justify our proceedings as being much milder than would be used anywhere else.

"I have seen your Denis Kelly, and have no great opinion that he can be useful here, but expect he will be troublesome and impertinent enough, and if I had been aware of his temper, I should not have been fond of his coming hither. The danger he pretends to have run in France I take to be a pretence only, that he might pin himself upon us to very little purpose, not but that I believe he will swear more perhaps than others will credit, but now he is here I must deal with him as well as I can. I hear he was a lieutenant in some of the Irish regiments till he was broke, and that he was over in England about Christmas last and went away upon the Act, being refused a licence, which perhaps is a circumstance you did not know before.

"I shall make inquiry after the persons you mention in your letter of the 8th, but one of them, viz., Berkeley, the Marybone man, has been in custody these two months.

"Nobody needs to be suspected of deep dissimmulation on account of Sir William Jennings coming over; I think I know whence it arises, and he hath neither served himself nor anybody else in what he hath [done ?]. However, it is to the honour of His Majesty's clemency that he doth not suffer the rigour of the law to be exerted against him, though he has very justly deserved the severest punishment.

"Your friend Dr. Lister has lately got him a wife; the pursuit of it kept him from going with Mons. d'Alonne into Holland." (IV. 119.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, Nov. 7[–17]. Whitehall.—"The discourse of Mr. Montague is various; most say he will leave the Treasury when the King returns, others that the King will not part with him from that Board, and a third sort of people think

he will stay to see how the Auditor's office is decided by law; but my own thoughts are that he will press to lay down the Treasury if the King will give him leave.

"My Lord Berkeley delivered last week his letter to the Turkey Company from the King to go their ambassador, and intends to be going in the spring, unless any better fish would come to net in the meantime."

"Mrs. A—— was with me this morning making sad complaint for the absence of her two best friends, yourself and Mr. Stepney. She is full of troubles, says trade is bad; I told her that must be her fault, that she ought to get better goods, and the like, for that her trade would be always going on in all reigns and under all religions. As for my own part I found out better goods than ever she sold me." (VIII. 353.)

Matthew Prior to James Vernon.

1698, Nov. 19. [N.S.] Paris.—"I was yesterday at Versailles, where the only question was, when my Lord Jersey is expected back at Paris. By the letters I received from him on Monday, I believe he will hardly leave Holland till His Majesty embarks for England.

"I have a very good piece of news, which is yet kept as a great secret here. Orders are given for the disbanding 50 battalions and 5 regiments of dragoons, and five men are to be reformed through every company as well horse as foot; this reform to amount to the suppression of 60,000 now immediately, and of 100,000 by New Year's day, and to 200,000 before the next summer.

"Upon this reform of the French troops and my Lord's being sent for in the manner he was to Loo, I believe measures are pretty well settled towards the maintaining the Peace in case the crazy King of Spain should die. I have more than barely my opinion in this point, but as it is a secret into which I am let, I beg of you to let it rest in your own bosom till you hear of it otherwise." *Copy.* (XII. 68-69.)

Matthew Prior to Dr. [Martin] Lister.

1698, Nov. 19. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have a scrip of paper from you more like a receipt* than a letter; however, I thank you very kindly for it, and assure you that what you write to tell me you are well is equally acceptable to me as whatever you have written to make me so.

"I have told Mr. Secretary Vernon by last post how I have discharged myself of my Lord Orford's commission. Your trees are sent to Calais, consigned to Mackay at Dover, from whom you will hear when and how they are coming to London. I have sent Mr. Secretary an account of what I expended, which may be repaid to Mr. Powys of the Treasury. You will see by it that we ordinary men can buy

* *I.e.*, a prescription.

our wood much cheaper; it is only you *vertuosi* that are so expensive; learning and poverty are as inseparable as light and heat, or (as Ben Jonson says) as a clove and an orange.

"This I know at present by sad experience, for I had only an inclination to be wise the other day, and I sent for your *Voyage to Paris* which stood me in 19 *livres* by the post. I will say nothing to you about it, though he that prints, you know, is in defiance and warfare with all the world, and is to be shot and wounded by every man that can spell: according to what the book cost me, too, I have, you see, as much right to criticize as anybody. My opinion in general is, that if every man writ fairly and intelligibly in the place where he was, the world would be much undeceived in the commonest notions it has retained of countries nearest to us; but we write and read of elephants, and crocodiles, of China and Egypt, and know nothing of the sheep and horses of France and Spain; we amuse ourselves of what is wonderful, and think it below us to take notice of anything that is useful.

"I have told Mons. Saintôt how much Mons. Breemen had the preference to him in your good graces; he is very angry with you, and so am I; we are both resolved that, since you will not be friends with our trade, we will have as little recourse as possibly we can to yours.

"I thank you for the favour you will do me in introducing my Lord Reay into the Royal Society; he will really deserve that honour. I am recommending others before I know if I am fairly incorporated myself, for I came too late at one meeting to be sworn, and was hurried so out of England that I had not time to appear at the next to thank them for the honour they intended of admitting me. Pray send me word how that matter stands, if I am formally a member or not, and if any fees are to be paid for my being so, you will be pleased to lay it out, and I will desire Mr. Powys to repay you; this, I confess, is a very odd commission that a man should lay out fees, that has all his life-time been used to take them, but I thank God I had strength of mind enough to break that custom with you here in France, though the obligation of your kindness to me will be remembered when I am sure the *louis d'ors* I ought to have given you would have been spent in plants or prints or cockle-shells." *Copy.* (XII. 70.)

Matthew Prior to John Woolhouse.

1698, Nov. 19. [N.S.] Paris.—"Without having any of the virtues with which you compliment me, I should be very glad to assist an old acquaintance and an ingenious man in everything that lies in my power; but I am afraid it will be utterly impossible for me to do anything in order to your return into England considering your present religion and circumstances. I presume you will know how

your case stands in relation to the Acts of Parliament which are at present in force against what you design. All that I can do is to state your cause fairly to the Secretary of State, and upon his answer to see if a pardon can be obtained for you: but my private opinion is that the thing cannot be brought about without your promising further to the Government than only not to disturb it; but I will make no overture of this kind to the Secretary, nor say one word of it to anybody till I hear from or speak with you. If you will come to my house, which the person you sent to me can show you, on Friday or Saturday morning any time before one o'clock, I will speak to you fully and give you the best counsel I can. I will be alone and manage our interview so as to do no injury to you, as I hope it will do none to myself." *Copy.* (XII. 73–4.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

1698, Nov. 16[–26]. Paris.—"I have heard no further from Brocard. I have seen him since at the coffee-house and amongst other people, which makes me think that he has no great miracles to unriddle; and in the last discourse I had with him I let him know very fairly that we would enter no further into a plot with him than we could understand it. However, I shall give him the 20 *louis* as you order, and support him as he may deserve.

"I talk in private sometimes with people that go to St. Germains. The Protestants are so ill-used there that I believe you may have every man of them. Parker has been absent for some months; he has been at Nantes and round about the world, and in the mean time has found some stop in the payment of his pension, and upon it has threatened that, if he is not paid he will bawl: you know the man; *no purchase, no pay* is his motto, and his interest is his principle. Some blind hints have been made to me about him at a distance, as that, if he were sure to be used like a gentleman amongst us, we might have him. I have answered thus far that, if he would let me see by an ample discovery in writing (which I know he has by him) that he is in earnest, I would send his papers by a safe hand to you, and endeavour to procure him a favourable answer; but that I could assure him of nothing, for that in the main we knew they were as wicked as he could possibly discover them to be."

"I was yesterday at Versailles, but heard nothing from Mons. de Torsy of Major Rue. When I do, I am provided of an answer from your letter.

"What is the matter with my Dr. Lister that he voyages, plants, marries, prints, and kills like Dryden's *Almanzor*, a perfect hero?" *Copy.* (XII. 74–6.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, Nov. 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I received this day your letter of the 19th, N.S., and can give a very near guess

at the secret that hath been communicated to you; you may depend upon it that it shall not go further for me.

"I believe the reform of the troops will go on, but there is still another reform wanting to confirm us of the sincerity of what is professed: you will find out my meaning when you remember what you writ formerly about Chambord.

"I hear talk of an order that no English shall stay at Calais above eight days, and they say it is made in favour of the owlers who are afraid of being discovered by some of our people. Pray enquire what is the meaning of this order, whether it comes from the Court, or be a humour of the governing persons on the frontiers. You will likewise inform yourself whether any persons are excepted, having leave to stay there and for what reasons." (IV. 121.)

John Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1698, Nov. 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I have been this afternoon discoursing with Mr. Tucker, who is just got out of a fit of the gout, about your affair with Mr. May, in whom I must confess I was deceived, as well as Mr. Tucker was, who is much concerned at the thing, for I did not think him capable of attempting so unreasonable and unfair a matter; and we have concluded that Mr. Tucker shall propose to him a third part, which we think is a fair allowance, and believe you will not be dissatisfied with it. How he receives the proposal you shall hear from Mr. Tucker.

"Just before I came to him he had received an advertisement from a friend that the Earl of Jersey would come over with the King, and that the Duke of Shrewsbury, who is to be in town to-night or to-morrow, would resign the seals to His Excellency; and so instead of being an Ambassador he would be Secretary of State. If this should be so, he desires you would, if you think fit, recommend him to be in his office.

"I take the liberty to desire your protection and favour to one St. Paul, who will shortly make application to you. His father was gentleman of the horse to the late Earl of Ossory, and afterwards went to Paris, where he died of an apoplexy and left 700*l.* there, which should have come to his son, but he has yet had nothing of it, only now is in hopes, as he tells me, to recover it, and is for that purpose going to Paris, where he has no acquaintance and little ability to make any, so that it will be an act of charity to permit him to have access to you upon occasion, and to give him your countenance in his affair." (IV. 122.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, Nov. 29. [N.S.] Paris.—"As to what I have from private correspondents, the bigotry and folly of those at St. Germains is unexpressible. The Protestants amongst them are worse used than ever for all outward appearances.

1478 [King James] has less credit with 1255 [Louis XIV.] than ever. 1479 [Queen Mary] recommended an officer for a vacancy the other day without success, and 1255 told 1487 [*sic*] that he must retrench the pensions, upon which 1479 was in tears a day or two. 50, 50, 68, 68, 50, 68, 42, 89 [Jinnings, *i.e.*, Sir William Jennings] coming over is a good deal the reason of 1255 having a bad opinion of these people. I know not if he be worth our having in England, but his coming over has the effect I have told you.

"27, 9, 102, 50, 89 [Davis] is very fine, and appears openly at St. Germains; he denies the whole business, and threatens great things. I have had letters from an unknown hand, that, if I take away the reputation of a gentleman (which I think must be this honest man), I must die; but I believe I shall rather be robbed than attacked, if he conducts the enterprise. There was some villany at the bottom of that business, which I will find out, if possible.

"One may write without cipher that Burk has been closeted by King James for having spoken with Your Excellency and myself; upon the whole he goes no more to St. Germains; as much as I have seen or heard of him in all conversations he behaves himself like a man of honour, as he did in that first business which recommended him to Your Excellency's acquaintance; his circumstances are hard, though he be a Roman Catholic and an Irishman; if Your Excellency will procure him leave to come over into England only, which is indeed a pardon, he will tell you the rest. As far as I see, His Majesty will have few better or heartier subjects." *Copy.* (XII. 78–9.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Nov. 21[–Dec. 1]. Whitehall.—"My Lord Duke of Shrewsbury has been here since Thursday last, waiting for His Majesty's arrival with an intention to resign his Seals. The common opinion is that my Lord Jersey is the most like to succeed him. I am sure I wish it very heartily and should be glad you could confirm it, and that you will let me know at the same time whether you have any thoughts of continuing with His Excellency, or whether you had rather stick to your employment in Ireland.

"Major La Rue is gone over to Calais, and hath writ to me from thence to let me know the concern he is in that he has been made an example, and wishes it may be of no ill consequence to others; I rather think he would be glad it should, but that you will take care in knowing his case and circumstances." (IV. 123.)

Matthew Prior to the Marquis de Bachamont de Bellavre.

1698, Dec. 4. [N.S.] Paris.—Requesting him to cancel the remainder of the three years' lease of his house to Lord

Jersey, who is obliged to move into a house in the Faubourg St. Germain in order to be nearer the rest of the foreign residents, more especially as it is impossible for the English to traverse the whole city in order to attend divine worship. His Lordship has spent above 4,000 *livres* on the house, and can at once find a new tenant if relieved of further responsibility for the lease. *French. Copy.* (XII. 81–4.)

Denis Kelly to Matthew Prior.

1698, Nov. 24[–Dec. 4]. London.—Stating that in obedience to Prior's orders he gave information to Secretary Vernon which led to the arrest of Macalaster, *alias* Johnson, "who was during the late wars a captain of a privateer in Dunkirk, and carried 'twixt England and France all the spies and conspirators," and "brought over most of those persons that came lately from St. Germains"; but he escaped from the messenger and warned his friends to beware of Kelly. He gave further information against "Mr. Coleman, formerly Keeper of the Woodyard to King James in France, and about three years ago came over from France; and a man reputed to be worth 50,000*l*., corresponded by letters or otherwise at the Court of St. Germains; as also against one Madam Chilton, who has been here a spy this several years," but no warrants were issued for their arrest. He also gave information against "Blind Macarty and another, who are taken up since their coming over;" he is able to furnish information against Irish landowners whose estates have escaped forfeiture under false pretences. As Secretary Vernon has ceased to encourage him, he desires Prior to recommend him to Lord Jersey as being Ambassador to France and one of the Lords Justices of Ireland. *Signed.* (XX. 60.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1698, Dec. 5. [N.S.] The Hague.—"It is not for want of a due sense of your favours that I have so long omitted to acknowledge all those I have lately received, and more particularly your last of the 21 past. But what returns have I to make while my Lord Jersey is with us, from whom and Mr. Swinfurt you cannot but be informed of everything? Whatever confidences the French may have secured to themselves, and whatever belief they would have you enter into of their disarming, they will be glad to have two strings to their bow, and will sooner make the new Parliament give credit (or pretend it) to their preparations for nothing but peace, to lessen our own security, than they will actually disband their sixty thousands, one hundred thousands and two hundred thousands, as your letter mentions.

"The King of Spain recovers. Friend Stepney does not hasten to Vienna, but entertains himself with the lesser affairs of Elbing and Poland. The peace with the Turks has yet a

good appearance, though not quite so promising as it was lately before the Grand Vizier left the Congress. The memorial recommended to you by Mons. Pomponne is sent to Whitehall to be examined there. 'Tis the same I received before from the Comte Tallard." (IV. 130.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1698, Nov. 26[–Dec. 6]. Dublin Castle.—"I have had a fit of sickness lately that confined me some time to my chamber and most part of that time to my bed or I had sooner acknowledged" your last letter. "I received one at the same time from Mr. Tucker, desiring I would make some proposal as to the part of the fees of your office which I might expect for the execution, he having, as he said, desired also your sense in that matter before he should make a decision, but he desired that in the meantime some part might be returned to you.

"I have therefore sent you enclosed an account [missing] of what has been received for these seventeen months that I have been here, and . . . . have by this post returned to Mr. Powys one-half of it, which, I believe, will be thought by both of you sufficient, when you consider that, though the business has been increased in these Lords Justices' government more than it had lately been, they have nevertheless thought fit to lessen our profits."

"We have had a pretty tedious session of the Parliament which still continues, and the business of the King has not been carried on without some difficulty. But I hope it is now pretty well over. Heads of a bill are prepared and agreed to by the House for raising 120,000*l.* of money demanded on land, and I believe next week a fund will be settled for the small remainder as well as for a sum that may be sufficient, with what was given last session, to complete the building of barracks for the army in this kingdom." (IV. 125.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1698, Dec. 8. [N.S.] Paris.—"In a letter I did myself the honour to write to you last post, and which you will find in England, I made bold to beg the continuance of your protection, that, if His Majesty had not designed any person to go to Nancy to make his compliments to the young Duke and Duchess [of Lorraine], I would desire the honour of that commission if Your Excellency thinks it proper for me: the reasons I would allege for my ambition are that, 1st, I am, as it were, in the province and that the character I bear of the King's Secretary here does in a manner entitle me to it; 2dly, the favour I have had under your protection to be known to Monsieur's Court and to the young Duchess in person; and 3dly that I might see a little the constitution and

inclination of that Court, which might not be useless to His Majesty's interests in what relates to this, and what would put me in the fairest light imaginable here. As to His Majesty's giving me the commission of an Envoy for such a journey, I presume this will be no objection, since I will most willingly part with that title as soon as I return to my post here to resume the name and qualification of Secretary, for I hold it more honour to be His Majesty's Secretary in an embassy where my Lord Portland was Ambassador than to be Envoy in any Court in Christendom; and having been chosen to this honour by Your Excellency, I hope this expedition, which I beg Your Excellency to ask for me, will not be thought unreasonable." *Copy.* (XII. 92–4.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Dec. 10. [N.S.] Paris.—"Count Tallard arrived here on Saturday and went immediately to Versailles, where he would have the world think he is locked up several hours together with the King every day, which is so true [to] the French vanity that I see English air could not at all cure it.

"I carried my Lord Strange to Court yesterday, and everybody was very kind to him; the King spoke to him more than ordinary, and Monsieur prattled with him and with me about his family above half an hour. The young gentleman behaved himself very handsomely, and when they told him he was not out of countenance when he spoke to the King, 'No' said he, 'why should I? since I have had the honour to speak to my own King.' I was very glad he was so well received, because it may be an obligation to his father. Mons. le Grand, the Count d'Auvergne, Count Guiscard and all your friends were very kind to him." *Copy.* (XII. 94–5.)

H. MAY to J[OHN] TUCKER.

1698, Dec. 3[–13]. Dublin Castle.—"I told you I had sent Mr. Powys a bill for half the fees I had received in Mr. Prior's Office for seventeen months, which I was in hopes would have prevented you any further trouble in this affair. The whole profits in that time come but 1385*l.* 19*s.*, and if I (to whom the Lords Justices designed the whole) am to have but one-third, I think truly no clerk in the kingdom earns his money so hard, considering two sessions of Parliament in that time, and the breaking one army, and receiving a new one of double the number. And I protest to you, before God, I have not (though it was in my power) made one shilling over and above the fees of the Office. . . . . If you still continue of opinion different from mine, I will submit to yours, ... but I can never agree to act for a third afterwards, unless the Lords Justices, when I appeal to them, command me, which I hope they will not, now they themselves have so much retrenched our fees." *Copy.* (IV. 129.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to JAMES VERNON.

1698, Dec. 13. [N.S.] Paris.—Brocard has lately brought some scanty information, and has been advised "to return with more wine and to try by that and every way imaginable to unlock his friend's bosom."

"Kelly has writ me a strange long letter, that he and one Thomas Dane can discover things considerable in Ireland, and are for that end embarked for Dublin. He desires me to get him my Lord Jersey's protection, and to write in his favour to the Government there. I am apprehensive that the fellow would make a plot where he does not find one ready made. If he or his friend have anything material for His Majesty's service in that kingdom, they will bring their own recommendation with them.

"Bryerly, Holmes and Durant are here; one Bamesly and Ross, a Scotchman of the same gang as the three first, are gone for England; my Lord Hay's son to the Marquis or, I think, Earl of Harold; and my Lord Nedsdeal [Nithsdale] of the family of Maxfield, chief, I think, of that name, meet some of our St. Germains people half-way and in private. The young Lord Montross is bred to that way, and sees none of us

"There is no order from Court for hindering the English to stay at Calais."

"I expect my Lord Jersey back on Monday. He is added to the Commission for the Affairs of Orange.

"Geldermalsten . . . is to succeed Cleverkirk from the States to England, but (as I hear) in a less character.

"Your banishing Madam Richelieu makes a great noise here, and though nobody knows the reason of this lady's disgrace, all the world agrees you are in the right of it.

"These people chicane us about six barrels of beer that comes from England for my Lord Ambassador's table, and as well for these as for all liquor whatsoever they make us pay the *droits d'entrée à Paris*, though they give us the King's passport. I hope we shall do the like to the wines which Count Tallard imports into England, and not let him in a whole vintage free, for which we have only an empty compliment whilst we are thus used here. The *lex talionis* is the best law I know upon earth, and I am sure it is the most convenient for us whilst we have to do with these people." *Copy.* (XII. 103–5.)

[DR. WILLIAM AGLIONBY] to [MATTHEW PRIOR.]

1698, Dec. 5[–15]. London.—Lord Portland "arrived yesterday with the King, whose hand I had the honour to kiss this morning. I was in hopes to have seen my Lord Jersey with him, for we all make him Secretary of State, and the Whigs swore a fitter man cannot succeed Lord Shrewsbury."

"We are like to have a great intrigue about a Speaker, but I believe it will be Sir Thomas Littleton, for Sir Edward Seymour has been chid by his party for dining with Mr. Montague and him, and his answer was he would dine with them again next day.

"If, as I heartily wish, dear Lord Jersey comes into the Ministry, I doubt not but you will be his right hand man, and since we all must have an oar, no man would choose to row under a milder commander nor a better steersman.

"We desire to be informed whether we shall see Count Tallard's bigoted military face any more; he has not had here the 'agreements' of the Colberts and the Barillons, so perhaps may rather desire to see the countenance of the devout lady, his patroness.

"I am going to give my three shillings to a poor poet who has made us a fine entertainment of *Rinaldo and Armida;* 'tis Mr. Dennis, who from being a critic has been pleased to come under the lash of criticism. The Grand Jury presented him some days ago, and 'tis fit we should do so too to enable him to answer them." (IV. 131.)

J[ohn] Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1698, Dec. 8[–18]. Whitehall.—"The excellent account you give of my Lord Strange will be a most agreeable *régale* to his mother, who, I expect, will come to town to-night. She intended to have been here yesterday, but the ways are so very bad that no one knows how far he can travel in a day. I wish that young Lord might stay at Paris all this winter, that he might have the advantage of a better acquaintance with you."

Mr. Hill "is still here, and I advise him not to return to Brussels till he can be secure he shall find bread for his household there, where scarcity now reigns. The Elector of Bavaria has an agent hither to pray His Majesty will suffer him to carry to Flanders a certain quantity of corn, how much I cannot yet tell.

"Sir Thomas Littleton, the person the Court proposed for Speaker on Tuesday, was chosen by a majority of 107 voices out of 377 that were there. To-morrow he is to be presented to the King for his approbation, and His Majesty will be Speaker to both Houses for a little time." (IV. 133.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698, Dec. 8[–18]. Whitehall.—"I find you hear of a lady that had orders to retire, but who can tell whether she has complied with them.

"I am glad Kelly has acquainted you with his design of going to Ireland; I conclude from thence he is gone. He can't do us a greater kindness than to leave us. The person he goes with I take to be Daniel Geary, who is at least as great a rascal as himself. They think it is but hanging a

man, right or wrong, that will entitle them to a fourth part of his estate as discoverers of concealed forfeitures. They would have a letter from me to the Lords Justices, which I gave them that I might not discourage real services, and I sent their character another way that I may have no hand in villany or perjury.

"If Mons. Tallard brings over fresh provisions of wine, we shall remember what difficulties were made about your beer." (IV. 134.)

Matthew Prior to John Tucker.

1698, Dec. 24. [N.S.] Paris.—I have a letter from Mr. Powys which tells me that he has received a bill for the money which Mr. May mentions:

Thus far our arms have with success been crowned.

I hope I have infinitely convinced you that our friendship was fixed too sure to be moved by Mr. May having more or less justice, and, as I said before he remitted this 600*l.*, so I repeat it again to you that I am satisfied you have acted in the whole affair like a man of strict honour and a common friend to us both, and as such you know I wholly referred the arbitrage and decision of the matter to you; your word to be like the law of the Medes and Persians which altereth not. I am a little concerned to see that Mr. May has not the same deference, for as on one hand I never made any demand of all, half, a third, or a quarter but by your mediation, so on the other Mr. May, I think, ought, when he sent me any money whatsoever, to refer himself to you as to the remainder in equal manner as I had done. This, I am sure, was accounted fair play at Ryswick, or Sweden would have taken it ill; and I do not doubt but that I shall make it so one day at Dublin. Now Mr. May, I perceive, takes us to be both of a party, and, being his own mediator, returns what he believes will be sufficient, which, though it had been so, is not a right way of proceeding; and, as we say in the Civil Law, the form of the act was not good, however the matter of it might be so." *Copy.* (XII. 106–7.)

Thomas Hopkins to Matthew Prior.

1698, Dec. 14[–24]. Whitehall.—"I had this morning your favour of the 20th, and thank you for the news it brought.

"The Duke of Shrewsbury's seals were delivered to the King on Monday night last by Mr. Secretary, so that now we are likely to have business and trouble enough, both provinces being under Mr. Vernon's care, until some other Secretary appears either from France or elsewhere."

"To-morrow there is like to be a very warm and angry debate in the House of Commons, they being to have the King's speech under consideration. The Army sticks in their stomachs, they thinking it too great to consist with their liberties, and the King too little to defend the nation,

"I writ a letter last month to Ned Hopkins at Turin, and made so bold to put it into your packet. Instead of an answer I received it again this morning, which, I believe, must be a mistake in your clerk." (IV. 140.)

J[OHN] TUCKER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698, Dec. 15[–25]. London.—"I have received another letter from Mr. May, in answer to mine of the 19th past wherein I proposed to him one-third, as by my last I acquainted you. I cannot better tell you his mind than by sending you a copy of his letter [see Dec. 3-13, *supra*], wherein you will not only see that he thinks his pains have been extraordinary . . . . . and that, if I still persist in my opinion of a third, he will submit it; but you will also see that he seems determined not to act for the future for so little, which last sentence perhaps he did not intend should come to your knowledge, at least by my hand, and therefore I must desire you to take no notice to him of it when you write to him."

"The Duke of Shrewsbury has at length delivered up the seals of his office to the King, and His Majesty has been pleased to name my Lord Jersey to succeed him. If you made my compliments to His Excellency, you would do me a great favour." (IV. 142.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF DORSET.

1698, Dec. 26. [N.S.] Paris.—"Your Lordship as one of our Regents has seen what commonly occurred here from your secretary, Mr. Yard, and indeed to have sent it to you more particularly would have been only to desire you to read the *Postboys* a day or two before they appeared in print; so little is there really in all that mystery which amuses the world that I can hardly in six months find enough to furnish a letter to my Lord of Dorset, though I could have written with ease twice a week to Sir James Forbise.

"It is beyond contradiction that the King of Spain has made his will, and by it constituted the Electoral Prince of Bavaria his heir, and the Queen to be Regent in case His Majesty dies during the minority of the Prince; thus the lineal right is kept to the younger sister's grandson and heir; the renunciation that France made when the King married the eldest sister is confirmed to be valid; and the Dauphin or (as France was projecting) one of his younger sons, excluded, as well as the Archduke of Austria. The Queen had a great sway in this business, and the reasons that most probably inclined her to this choice were that she might exalt the Palatine family, of which Your Lordship knows the House of Bavaria and that of Neubourg, from whence she is, are equally branches, and that by this contrivance she might hold the Government longer (which is not the least of a woman's aim in such cases), the Electoral Prince not being

above 8 years old, and as well the Archduke as the Duke of Berry five or six years nearer manhood. The French in general seem to be nettled at this affair, but I think those of them that have best sense are not so really; for all their natural heat and impatience, and the pride they take in the greatness of their monarchy, they begin to see that these notions have impoverished and enslaved them; and the Treaty of Ryswyck has a good deal instructed them, and their own affairs at home convinced them that they have grasped at more than they could secure, and that neither their King nor they are the better for the expense of fortifying and keeping garrisons eight years together in thirty towns which they have been obliged to give back in the ninth. The Monarch himself is old, and, I think, has a good mind to be quiet; to say the truth out he is quite cowed by King William, and since the taking of Namur he has as fairly wheeled and run as ever any cock did in a pit: with this, the people are far enough from being in an estate of beginning a new war, for they still feel the weight of that which is past very sensibly lying upon them, which is so evident, that as yet they are not in a condition of redressing their money to its intrinsic value, and by consequence cannot open a commerce upon a good foot with their neighbours; so that I hope we may have peace in our time.

"This succession of Spain is mostly our King's contrivance and effecting. Some faults he has, or else he would not be a man; as to his character of a Prince, he has carried his reputation to a prodigious height, and this affair must be allowed to be a proof of it beyond denial.

"The Emperor is a good deal angry at us, but he can do us no harm, God knows. The Dutch Ambassador assures me that the truce between His Imperial Majesty and the Turk was concluded the 28th of November for twenty-five years; this will reconcile the Emperor to us again and is a new epoch in the King's honour and a great advantage to our reputation at Constantinople.

"Poor King James is hardly thought on or mentioned; an Italian and a Scotch priest govern him and his whole concerns; he is so directly the same man he ever was, persecuting the few Protestants that are about him, though they are ruined and banished for their adhering to him, and rewarding and encouraging any sorry creature that he can make a convert of. The child they call the Prince of Wales they breed up with all the abhorrence imaginable to heresy.

"I should wrong Your Lordship's goodness to me if I did not tell you the state of my own private affairs. I have played the minister here in my Lord Jersey's absence, and, now he is returned, we are preparing for his entry, so I am to appear with him as I did with my Lord Portland, in a new gaudy coat and with an expensive equipage. I must own to Your Lordship I am weary of this dancing on the high

rope in spangled breeches, and if my Lord Jersey be Secretary of State (as it is thought he may be in some time), I will endeavour to get home and seat myself in a desk in his office, for I had rather be Matt Prior near my dear Lord Dorset (Your Lordship must pardon me the familiarity of the expression) than *Monsieur l'Envoyé* in any Court in Christendom; and I know not how it is, life runs away before one is aware of it, and I shall hardly have time enough in that part of it which is to come, to testify the obligations I have to Your Lordship for so many years past." *Copy.* (XII. 111–5.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD BUCKHURST.

1698, Dec. 27. [N.S.] Paris.—"I will own myself to be as bad a correspondent as you can imagine, if you will allow me to be as faithful a friend as any you have in the world; which I am so confident you do, that I desire little Horace enclosed may be the third in our amity. As you like him, I will endeavour to get you the other authors in the same bigness.

"I have no news to trouble you with from this country: here is no school half so big as Westminster, when the curtain is drawn; everybody learns in a Gazette [*sic*], without being whipped or fighting with one another, which is a very effeminate way, and I believe is the reason that one English boy can either construe or box with three French boys; but the King's grandchildren are very good scholars (as I can particularly assure you), and therefore you must take care to shew them hereafter that an English nobleman understands Latin as well as a French Prince.

"Pray my Lord assure Mons. Didiez that I have always taken care of his letters, though I have not had the good manners to tell him so. Indeed, to me writing of letters is just like making exercise to Your Lordship; one defers it as long as ever one can, and then one whips it over (as you call it) exceeding fast; yet I could prattle thus to my dear Lord Buckhurst to the very end of my paper, if the post were not just going, though in the meantime I neglected to write to half my graver but less sensible correspondents. Adieu, my dear Lord; go on in everything that is good and worthy of you, remembering always that you are the Earl of Dorset's son." *Copy.* (XII. 116–7.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698, Dec. 31. [N.S.] Paris.—"My Lord Jersey's entry is to be on Sunday and these people are playing their old tricks over again, of having Mons. de Torsy's coach go next to the Princes of the Blood, and before the Ambassadors; of having the Introductor's coach go to lead the march before the Mareschal's; but I think we shall stick to our point of having no innovation from what was practised at Your Excellency's entry. There never were such people as these

are, but Your Lordship knows them better than I can describe them.

"I leave my proposal of going to pay His Majesty's compliment at Nancy to Your Lordship's decision, and I shall think that best which you resolve." *Copy.* (XII. 117–8.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698[–9], Dec. 26[–Jan. 5]. Whitehall.—"I do not understand the meaning how my letters should come to you so irregularly, but I must needs write with great reserves both to my Lord Jersey and yourself while I am under this uncertainty whether the letters are read or not before you receive them. We must have some establishment for couriers, or our correspondence will be less significant. I wish you would draw up a scheme what the charge will amount to, that I may lay it before His Majesty, and get something resolved that we may depend on; and if it can be done in a cheaper way than by messengers, there would be less difficulty to obtain it."

"We have no confirmation yet of what you write of the twenty-five years' truce between the Emperor and the Turk. I hope it is intended, but I thought the Imperialists stopped concluding till the Venetians were forwarder in their treaty." (IV. 144.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1698[–9], Jan. 10. N.S. Paris.—"We have got past my Lord Jersey's entry which I leave to Mr. Yard to embellish the *Gazette*. As to the ceremonial, it was in every point like that of Your Excellency, though they endeavoured to chicane us extremely before we could agree it. The Monarch has renewed all the assurances imaginable of his being resolved to keep the Peace and hold good correspondence with His Majesty, and the nations shall live (as he says) in tranquillity and union. I wish to God that on the other side we at home would let him see that we did what we could for our own defence in case he should not be as good as his word, and would not give the people of St. Germains leave to rejoice (as they do very heartily) at the vote which keeps up only 7,000 men in England.

"I am not without hopes that by Bayley's means 15, 84, 50, 32, 84, 58, 114 [Brierly] may be gained. I endeavour it all I can, having written to Mr. Secretary, and having received his opinion in that affair: this I say is but a project, and one cannot answer for the success of it, but it may happen to be a good piece of service.

"Bayley and B[raconier] are both upon my hands; to the first I continue his pay, as I shall do until I have Your Excellency's orders how he is to be disposed of. B[raconier] has had nothing in a great while from the correspondent but

this enclosed list, and indeed there is very little *sur le tapis : tant mieux !* B[raconier] repeats to me that, as he always has been, so he shall always be ready for any service to the best of his power ; he says that Your Excellency at your leaving France promised that something should be done for him. Your Excellency best knows what the man has deserved, or how he is to be rewarded ; all that I shall add is that I think he is in great want, and I believe a piece of money would do him a service. I beg to know how I am to answer him. As to Bayly, I am of opinion he will be serviceable by being continued longer here, though I find he has a good mind to be in England ; but his pay being continued to him and a little money over and above added sometimes to it would put his voyage out of his head : in this I likewise beg Your Excellency's direction.

"My fine clothes and new *livrées* made for my Lord Jersey's entry lie upon my hands, but would come mightily in play if I were ordered to go to Nancy ; of this I take the boldness to remind Your Excellency, and to beg your favour in it, because I am informed from the office that there are others pretending to it. I desist with all submission if Your Excellency does not think it proper for me ; but in any man's case else I would say that a man who has had the honour to serve the King as his secretary seven years, and has been secretary to three embassies or commissions may hope to have the honour which I ask Your Excellency's protection for, of being envoy for three weeks." *Copy.* (XII. 119–20.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1698–9, Jan. 2[–12]. Whitehall.—"I congratulate your having borne up the honour of our nation in show : I wish we may do it in reality here, but that is a point as yet undecided. In my next you will understand it better.

"I don't much wonder at Brocard's silence, since he finds you are on your guard not to be imposed on.

"You will acquaint my Lord Jersey that I know not yet what we are to hope for from the Irish Parliament. They adjourned to the 27th of December, and we have no letters from them since that day, nor do we yet hear whether they have received the money Bills we sent back ; but we know the opposing party kept together and seemed to be in the same humour : they will rather be more animated by what we have done here, so that I wish we could see them well up." (V. 1.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698–9,] Jan. 5[–15]. Kensington.—"Ne soyez pas fâché, Monsieur, de ce que je ne réponds pas aussi souvent que je devrois à vos lettres, lesquelles ne laissent pas de me faire un très grand plaisir, et dont je vous remercie de tout mon

cœur. Je vous aurois servi très volontiers dans la pensée que vous aviez d'aller à Nancy, mais le Roy avoit promis à Mr. Hill de l'y envoyer.

"Si l'on peut prévaloir sur l'Escolier à dire ce qu'il sçait, il est certain que cela pourroist estre de grand service.

"Envoyez moy, s'il vous plaist, le nom de baptesme de Coll. Burck, afin que sa permission de revenir en Angleterre puisse estre au plutost dépêchée.

"B[ay]ly doit continuer où il est, et Br[aconier] aussi, et il faut du moins continuer ce qu'on leur donne, comme aussi le correspondant de ce dernier. J'en ay parlé a Mr. Vernon qui en aura soin exactement ; mandez moy ce que vous jugez a présent qui pourroit suffire à chaquun des trois. En temps de besoin le correspondant doit estre mieux payé qu'asteur [qu'à cette heure] qu'il ne rend point, ou très peu, de service.

"Je suis très aise que vostre cérémonial se soit si bien passé, celui là me faisoit plus de peur que les affaires, quoy que je n'y sois pas fort propre non plus.

"Mons. Mansart vous mettra en main pour moy les plans de quelques maisons du Roy, que je vous prie de m'envoyer par la première commodité ; comme aussi les portraits s'il estoit possible de les tirer des mains de Rigaut."

[*At foot is written by Prior, with evident reference to Lord Portland's enquiry about Col. Burke :—*

"William Burk, of Barnadarigt* in the county of Galway†, left Ireland five years since, was taken prisoner at Agrin ; had a regiment in King William's service."]

(V. 2.)

R[ICHARD] POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698[–9], Jan. 5[–15].—"If our news proves true you will be again very quickly left alone at Paris, the general discourse here being that my Lord Jersey will be made Secretary of State. If so, I shall despair of having you to taste the burgundy you were so kind to send me ; I am to bottle it off to-morrow, and in a fortnight's time will drink your health heartily in it." (VIII. 369.)

LORD BARNARD to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698[–9], Jan. 6[–16]. London.—"I think myself obliged to return you thanks for the concern you have shown for my son, and your obliging letter by which you give me an account of him. I wish either his carriage to me, or his conduct abroad, would give me reason to believe he deserves the character you give him, but he has given me too great cause to fear otherwise. He has been now travelling abroad about five years, under a governor till June last, at which time by a very rude and unhandsome treatment he was forced to leave him. Whilst he was with him I allowed him a plentiful allowance, and punctually paid. When he left him

* Barnaderg near Tuam. † Aughrim.

at Geneva, he furnished him with credit and money sufficient to bring him into France and to maintain him with tolerable conduct for some time after." Since then he has been supplied so well that "it is a wonder to me that he can still be so much in debt, and yet want clothes, credit and everything else, as yours mentions. But since you have been so kind as to assist him with your credit, I must beg the favour of you to let me know how far you have engaged for him; . . . . . but must at the same time entreat you to give him no further credit or engage further for him."

"You may be assured I shall not be wanting to support my eldest son suitable to the condition of my family, whilst he does not by his conduct discredit it." (V. 3.)

JOHN TUCKER to H. MAY.

1698[–9], Jan. 7[–17]. London.—"I have received yours of 26 November and 3 December past, and am very glad that the misunderstanding which has been between Mr. Prior and you is so near an amicable conclusion. I am obliged to you both for the confidence you put in me, but I must own that I think it a very hard as well as nice task to undertake the composure of a difference of this nature between two friends, and must confess a sense of my own unfitness for it."

"I have with as much deliberation and impartiality as I could considered the matter and what you have said upon it; and since I must declare my opinion to you, I do truly, and with a regard to your service as well as friendship, tell you that I would advise you to be content with one-third of the profits of the office for your trouble in the execution of it. . . . . For the time to come agree with him upon the best terms you can." *Copy.* (V. 3.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698[–9], Jan. 9[–19]. Whitehall.—"As soon as I receive the messengers' bills I will solicit hard that some money may be sent them; and then do what you will with them. Brown had best acquit himself diligently and be so serviceable as to deserve being kept there; for by what I hear of his circumstances he can hardly live out of a gaol here, having contracted foolish debts. One of them, I hear, was on account, as he pretended, of the Westminster Election, which Mr. Montague and I have no reason to thank him for: but if he does his duty with you, I shall take no notice of his follies here." (V. 5.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

169[8-]9, Jan. 14[–24]. Paris.—"Br[aconier] is very diligent, but there is little at St. Germains worth knowing; the officers and everybody that had the least worth or merit

are neglected, and by consequence are discontented, and I am told would all get home if they were but sure of their lives. Amongst the rest my Lord Slaine declares to everybody that he will go and throw himself at the mercy of the Government; if he is hanged, he says there is an end of the story: indeed the poor people have reason to be discontented; but priests and women are only countenanced, and King James, as he grows older, grows so infinitely a bigot that it is hardly to be believed.

"There will be a ball at Versailles next week; my Lord Jersey will be at it, and I hear King James and his Queen are likewise to be there, which will be a very odd interview, and will contradict King James' maxim that the rebels dare not look him in the face, and that he never saw above one or two of Bentinck's crew (for that is the name we have the honour to go by); and at this ball we shall at least see who of the Court (that have made such work with us) will have honesty enough to stick by us. I am afraid my Governor* for all his compliments will be paying his court to Queen Mary, and I believe at the bottom he hates us very heartily, which is the reason I am so far from repenting that I have sent Your Lordship the lampoons upon him, that I intend to make one upon the same subject myself.

"Br[aconier] has no news; the correspondent has had nothing since summer except the paper I sent to Your Lordship, and in truth there is no news of moment: but these people must be gratified, if we expect any service from them."

Recommends payments to various agents, viz:—

"For Br[aconier] .. .. 100 *louis*
Correspondent .. .. .. 50 ,,
Ba[yley] for a year .. .. 120 ,,

of which I will give an account how expended; and for the other, who is properly Mr. Vernon's, I will settle it with him."

"I repeat to Your Lordship that these people do little good and are of little use at present, but they must be kept up for the good they may do, and nothing is lost that is employed to let us know what these people may be thinking of, who never will love us, and will be always contriving some ill against us.

"We gained our points as to the ceremonial most triumphantly, God be praised. I am no very good courtier, but indeed I would rather have been sacrificed than have given up one step in the stairs of the Hôtel des Ambassadeurs, and I must own I had a secret joy in letting these people see that my Lord Jersey trod exactly in the steps of my Lord Portland.

"I shall obey your commands in getting the plans of Mons. Mansart, and shall send them with the pictures which that stuttering artist Rygault promises me in few days.

* By his Governor Prior apparently means Marshal Villeroy.
Cf. pp. 235, 245, 264, 265 *supra.*

" Col. Burk is the most joyful man alive; I hope he will deserve your kindness to him by a perpetual attachment to His Majesty's service and interests; his name is William Burk of Barna-Darigg in the county of Galway.

" Davis (the rogue that robbed you) is a great courtier at St. Germains, where he appears at the levée and dinner.

" For what regards the business of Nancy I give Your Lordship equal thanks as if what I desired had been effected. His Majesty could not have sent a worthier man than Mr. Hill, and my taking the liberty to solicit Your Lordship proceeded from my not knowing it was so disposed of." *Copy.* (XII. 121–4.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698-9, Jan. 30. N.S.]. Kensington.—" Je ne m'estonne pas, Monsieur, que les Protestants à St. Germain voyent leur fautte, quant ils se sentent si négligés et mal traittés, et que des gens comme Davis, et des bonnes femmes et prestres sont caressés. Je doutte pourtant qu'il y en ayt qui se hasardent de venir ici sans savoir leur seureté.

" Je suis impatient d'apprendre la réeussitte du ball et de l'effect de la différente compagnie qui s'y trouvera. Vous avez trop méchante opinion de vostre Gouverneur; je ne vous crois pas bon pupille: quoique j'en aye une meilleure, je vous prie de m'envoyer les lampoons que vous aurez faits.

" Il n'y a rien de plus raisonnable que d'encourager nos correspondants par toutte sorte de moyens; Dieu veuille que nous n'en ayons pas besoin. J'ay adjusté la chose avec Mons. Vernon, mais il ne faut pas que depuis mon départ de France les frais viennent à ma charge.

" J'espère que Rigaut se lassera à la fin de mentir, et que vous pourres m'envoyer mes tableaus avec les desseyns que l'on me mande que Mons. Mansart vous a donnés de Versailles, Trianon, et Marli." (V. 9.)

John Robethon to [Matthew Prior].

169[8-]9, Jan. 23–Feb. 2. Kensington.—" Jamais la jolie lettre du 18 de ce mois dont vous m'avez honoré ne pouvoit arriver plus à propos, puisque vostre paquet (qui m'estoit adressé) ayant esté rendu ce matin à Mylord pendant que j'estois à Londres, Son Excellence l'a ouvert dans la pensée d'y trouver des lettres pour Elle. Je me sens tout fier de ce que son Excellence a vu par la lecture de celle que vous m'écrivez que vous ne me jugez pas indigne d'avoir avec moy un commerce de nature à exercer votre bel esprit. Cette marque de votre estime ne peut manquer de me faire du bien auprès de Son Excellence, et de l'obliger à regarder d'un œil plus favorable un homme à qui les gens du plus fin discernement et du meilleur goust daignent témoigner quelque bonté. Quoy que vous m'ayez procuré cet

avantage sans y avoir songé, j'ose me flatter que vous n'y aurez aucun regret, outre que vous ne devez pas estre faché que ce petit accident ait fait voir à Mylord que ce n'est pas seulement dans les matières qui ont du rapport aux affaires d'estat que la langue françoise vous est devenue familière, mais que vous vous en servez avec la mesme facilité dans celles qui sont du ressort des beaux esprits. Je ne prétends pas parler de ceux qui le sont à la françoise, à la plus part desquels il ne reste rien quand on leur a osté l'enjouement du style, ou l'arrangement des mots. Je parle de ces beaux esprits qui pensent, et dont les pensées sont ordinairement si vives et si justes, qu'elles ne laisseroint pas de charmer quand mesme il leur manqueroit quelques unes des graces de l'expression. Si c'est le défaut des beaux esprits du pais où vous estes d'estre plus superficiels que solides, je suis fort faché d'apprendre par vostre lettre que leur négotiateurs sont du mesme caractère, et qu'ils ont plus de paroles que d'effect. Je croy mesme que s'il falloit entreprendre deux cures si désespérées, la beauté originelle des productions de vostre génie convertiroit plus aisément les premiers que toute la force de vos raisonnements et la clarté de vos mémoires ne toucheroit les seconds ; et pour vous donner une raison de cette différence, c'est que l'erreur des uns est dans l'entendement, et celle des autres dans la volonté, de sorte qu'il seroit plus aisé de faire connoistre à ceux là ce qui est beau que de faire aimer à ceux-cy ce qui est juste. Vous avez raison de croire que je me console tous les jours de plus en plus d'estre eloigné d'un tel pais, et je l'aurois bientôt entièrement oublié si les gens du vostre ne me faisoient sentir fort souvent que la France est ma patrie en me donnant des marques du mépris général qu'ils ont pour tous ceux de ma nation."

Postscript.—" Le Comte de Tallard a dit à son retour qu'on avoit relasché dix ou douze galériens Anglois, Orangeois et François naturalisés en Angleterre, dont Mylord Portland luy donna la liste quand il partit pour la France." (V. 8.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

169[8-]9, Feb. 11. [N.S.] Paris.—" On Monday night at Versailles we had the unhappy news that the Electoral Prince of Bavaria died at Brussels the 6th of a fever and convulsions ; this Court is a good deal concerned at it, I mean those of them that think rightest ; the next of them are setting the Duke of Berry upon the throne of Spain without any doubts or difficulty. The incertitude of this succession should (one would imagine) oblige our House of Commons to think twice before they disband the army, for (as my Governor argued t'other day with me) how do we expect to be respected or make alliances, whilst we cannot give one man to any of our neighbours upon occasion ? or how do we hold the balance of Europe, whilst we shall not be out of fear of being invaded

every day ? I will not trouble Your Lordship upon a subject with which I do believe you are tired and vexed enough already : but I must add that our friends at St. Germains are drinking the House of C[ommon]s' health, and that those who are most our enemies will most rejoice to see us disarmed." *Copy.* (XII. 132.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to [CHARLES MONTAGU].

169[8-]9, Feb. 11. [N.S.] Paris.—" If you have not the unhappy news already from Brussels I must tell it to you, the Electoral Prince of Bavaria died there the 6th, and so the succession of Spain is as undetermined as ever. I wish we were not so very warm in disbanding our army, for we shall hardly hold the balance of Europe (as we call it) whilst we have not the weight of one armed man to turn the scale on either side ; but of this one should write a book and not a letter. We abroad see things ('tis true) in another light than they do at Westminster ; and if we do but secure ourselves, I am satisfied ; but if we shall or no is the question. Our friends at St. Germains are so delighted with what the Parliament is doing in England that they publicly drink their healths : there is no doubt but that France will give them a helping hand whenever there is a bare possibility of succeeding, but

Prudens futuri temporis exitum
Caliginosa nocte premit Deus.

This is only to my dear Master and friend, who will burn my letter, which I will take for answering it." *Copy.* (XII. 134.)

RICHARD POWYS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1698[-9], Feb. 6[-16]. Whitehall.—" There is a warrant signed for paying 750*l.* to Mr. Secretary Vernon for secret service, and will be received this week. He tells me he is to pay a good part of it to me for your account ; as soon as he does, you shall know what I receive from him.

" I am now to answer your last letter, which is rather an endorsement on Mr. Swinford's letter relating to what you imagine I have played the fool in. I have had a full swing of rambling and thought it high time to take up, but you have yet no occasion for it, if common fame be true that you are so well provided, live in a full swing of pleasure abroad ; this is indeed sufficient at present to keep matrimony out of your head, but I shall one day have you in. I was some time since more averse to that state than you can be, and ridiculed it as much, but I am at last caught. I will not tell you how I like it, but will leave that to your judgment when you come over." (VIII. 381.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

169[8-]9, Feb. 16. [N.S.] Paris.—" The moment that this express is parting with my Lord Jersey's letters to Your

Lordship, I receive the favour of yours of the 30th past by the ordinary post, with the enclosed to Madam Mayercroon, which I shall send to her, it being impossible to have other access to her in the sad condition she now is in. Her beautiful daughter died on Saturday morning of a bleeding *partout* and a kind of small-pox, which never came out as they ought to do; Madam Mayercroon is so ill that it is a question if she will long survive it.

"The ball at Versailles is, I believe, quite put off; the *mascarades* they have amongst themselves at Marli are ridiculous enough. '*Masquez vous*,' *dit le Roy; et ils se masquent tous:* he treats them with all their masquing habits, which he hires out of Rue St. Honoré here. King James and his lady are at these entertainments; that is, they supped at Marli on these nights and return to St. Germains to lie, so this old Monarch of France trims between us as he used to do."

"The plans are not yet ready, my Governor having ordered some additions to be made of them: indeed, my Lord, he is but a civil trimmer. I shall send them and the pictures as soon as I can possibly get them." *Copy.* (XII. 136.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698–9], Feb. 9–19. Kensington.—"J'ay bien receu la vostre, Monsieur, par laquelle vous me marquez la mort du Prince Electoral de Bavière; les gens où vous estes vont un peu viste en mettant le Ducq de Berry sur le trône d'Espagne, sans doutte en difficulté; vous jugez fort bien les affaires qui se passent, mais dans St. Steven's Chappel l'on n'y pense pas de mesme, et je ne m'estonne pas qu'à St. Germain l'on boive a leur santé.

"Je vous prie de donner cette lettre non cachettée à son adresse en main propre, et de rendre le service que vous pourrez; si l'on a besoin d'argent pour les amplettes, donnez en, je vous prie, jusques a cent pistoles, que vous pouvez tirer sur moy." (V. 12.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

No date.—"I can only by this post acknowledge the favour of your letter of the 9–19, and shall by the next give you an account of the delivery of the letter unsealed as likewise of that to the Chevalier de Lorraine.

"Your Lordship's picture is finished at Rygault's, my Lord Woodstock's is in hand, I can only repeat that I hasten him all I can and flatter him all I can, without which it is impossible to make him work.

"My Governor told me to-day at Versailles that, as soon as the plans were done, they should be put into my hands; I shall likewise take care to send them with the pictures. So much for your private commands; as to the public, these people could not conceal their satisfaction for what was

resolved in St. Stephen's Chapel; they had a remark upon every word in the King's speech, and the Paris Gazettier had given as ill a turn to it in the translation as he could. My Governor thought the Parliament would not thank the King for his speech; but as I have in part already undeceived him, so I shall do it quite upon the Lords' address, which we received last night. Our friends at St. Germains are not so exalted upon the whole matter as they were last week: they are very often at Marli in the diversions there. There will be a ball we think on Monday next at Versailles, in all probability King James will be there: I cannot yet tell Your Lordship if we shall be there likewise or no.

"I tell Mr. Secretary that one of the Higgens, who has been here and at St. Germains, is returned incognito into England, having kissed King James' hand before his going. Bayly is gone into the country with the scholar, and I know not yet what effect their being together will produce." *Copy.* (XII. 139.)

The Earl of Portland to [Matthew Prior].

[1698–9], Feb. 16–26. Kensington.—"Je suis en peine, Monsieur, de n'avoir pas receu de vos lettres du 18me, cela me fait craindre que vous ne soyez malade. Les gens de la Chambre Basse ne raisonnent pas si juste que vous faittes dans vostre dernière du 11me, ni que font nos amis de St. Germain, qui boivent a leur santé avec raison. Je vous prie de faire tenir les lettres si [ci] jointes, et de me donner de vos nouvelles, car je suis enquiet pour la santé de mes amis." (V. 13.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

169[8-]9, Feb. 28. [N.S.] Paris.—"In my last I acknowledged the honour of Your Excellency's letter of the 9–19, and I herein send you the answer to the letter enclosed. In this and in everything I most readily obey your commands.

"The Duke of Berwick's voyage is variously talked of here, they will have it that he is to be a Churchman, and will be promoted to the dignity of a Cardinal. Quelle consolation pour des âmes vrayment Catholiques! Et quel honneur pour la véritable Eglise! I am glad his journey lies towards Italy, and shall endeavour to have an eye upon His Grace for fear of his going towards England for all his supposed devotion.

"Your Excellency will easily imagine the talk which is made here by Count d'Auvergne's being to be married to Mademoiselle de Staremberge, the gaining of a soul is an unanswerable argument for any man's doing a silly thing here; 'tis only the reformed church that is like to have so considerable a loss in this lady.

"There is the most unaccountable story runs here (and for as much as I can hear, it is true): Madame de Valentinois, being reconciled to her husband after long dissension, told him that she loved him better than she did any man, and that no man

ever pleased her so much as he, though she had had eight, which she named thereupon to her husband. This I own is very foolish to tell Your Lordship, but everybody talks of it here; the substance of this matter is that her husband will live with her no longer.

"I must detain Your Lordship a moment longer to tell you yet a thing more extravagant. On Tuesday, when we were at Versailles, people taxed me with being mighty secret and asked me how Your Excellency did, and when I had seen you; at last I found out that it had gone through all the Court that you were arrived incognito at my Lord Jersey's, that you had been at Versailles and were going to Spain, and that you had a private audience of the King, to which Bontems only introduced you.

"As soon as I came back to Paris the Président de Mêmes and others sent to my house to know if it were so. Your Excellency will pardon my troubling you with a thing so very odd as this is.

"The Duchess of Portsmouth is arrived here, and went away immediately to her country house with the virtuous Duke d'Elbœuf." *Copy.* (XII. 142.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

169[8-]9, March 4. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have so little to trouble Your Excellency with this post that I only take the pen to acknowledge the honour of your letter of the 16–26 February, and to tell you that I take care of the enclosed according to their addresses. We went on Monday to Versailles; the Monarch gave a ball in the great apartments, and last night there was a private masquerade in Madame Maintenon's apartments from 7 till 10, and after supper all the world was masqued in the Dauphin's apartments; this and the devotion and ashes we are in to-day is all at present.

"I have as well by last as by this post written some things in cipher to Mr. Secretary (he having the key) of which he will inform Your Lordship." (XII. 145.)

[1698-9, Feb. 26. O.S. ?].—"The Scotch have repossessed themselves at Darien; improve it in Spain.

"I received Mr. Broxton's* of the 27th; I shall do all I can for him in the affair of Mr. Lenthall*. I venture to say you will be more and more convinced of my zeal for Mr. Knight's [King James'] service in particular as well as of the faithful advice I gave those of his religion.

"The Scotch will fall out with Orpine [Orange, *i.e.*, William III.] if he does not comply with them in all things that tend to their settling at Darien.

"They will make K.W. call a Parliament in March or else they will sit and act without his consent.

"The House of Commons against Popery have ordered Bills to be brought in, which if they pass into Act, Popery

* Probably cipher names.

in a little time will be extirpated here ; and in Ireland and in Scotland there will be rather worse than milder laws against them. Now these cannot be laws without K.W. consent, and so you may improve that matter, and set all foreign Princes and States to write to him not to make them into laws ; if he should, they may resent it and join an Act accordingly. No courtiers have yet opposed these resolves ; you may improve this, that K.W. friends are for these Bills, so that he may be said to promote it. A word to the wise, etc. If you don't improve hints given, or if you do it without success, it is to no sort of purpose to hazard giving hints. Can't these differences between the Danes, Swedes and Holsteiners be improved to a sort of general war or a religious war, of which some good may come in time ? Blow the coals, leave no stone unturned : has Kimpe [King James], or why has he not, some friends authorized and commissioned in Scotland in this juncture to offer terms and rewards and encouragement for them to act for him ? Remember, I tell you, the sematters may be done at the same time that you are working all over the world for his service.

" The Jacobites divided whether it be better for Mr. Kimpe's interest that Orpine be hindered going to Holland ; Kimpe ought to be consulted in it and advised upon and send word over. It is wished by the Jacobites here that K.J. would intercede to take off the persecution of the Protestants in France and indeed in all parts, and that it be published that he does it.

" People divided if it be best that K.W. go to Scotland or to Holland, let us know which is best for Kimpe's interest.

" Why do you not hinder K.W. interest in all Courts abroad, and let him carry all points ?

" Kimpe's affair of course must keep a Protestant air ; and still remember that he employs none that are hated here or in Scotland, or that are not advised by them ; otherwise it will be fatal to his family. I am doing all I can, so are others, to get Cole leave to come over. Duty to dearest M. and N. : love to all friends. I am a plain dealer, speak my mind freely whatever comes, though I know I do and shall suffer for it ; do not consider the present state of Kimpe and his interest ; I say again, let me hear if you receive this very letter." (V. 18.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

169[8-]9, March 11. [N.S.] Paris.—" In my last I told Mr. Secretary in cipher that I had heard the Duke of Berwick was gone for England ; but being assured that they had letters from him dated from Lyons five days after he left Paris, and that he was going on for Turin and Italy, I write to Your Lordship at large ; the design of his going is to remonstrate to the Pope the hardships which the Catholics are under in

England and to desire the Church's charity on that account. Some of his Grace's intimate friends think he has a mind to take orders. I sometimes write particulars concerning the Court of St. Germains in cipher to Mr. Secretary; if you please to have me write to you immediately the same thing, you have only to order a copy of the cipher to be given to you by Mr. Yard, or if you would have Mr. Secretary explain my letters to Your Lordship, you will intimate to me your orders in this point: in all cases, if His Majesty goes this summer into Holland, it will be absolutely necessary that you have a copy, for I shall be obliged to write to you often in cipher; in the meantime I write this plainly, and hope it will have the good fortune not to be broke open in the way.

"Lord Melford is come in again and Lord Middleton quite disgraced. About two years since several letters were showed to King James as written in England and directed to Lord Middleton; these letters mentioned that the Jacobite Protestants in England were ill satisfied with Melford's being at the head of the Councils here; Melford's party have now found out that the letters were counterfeited here in Paris, and Middleton is accused of being privy to the cheat; the effect of this which I could wish is that Middleton should come over again to us, but I leave this consideration to Your Lordship's better reflexion.

"I have intimated to Your Lordship what sudden joy some people here had upon the opiniatrity of the Parliament in England, but that joy cools a great deal. The address of the House of Commons to the King to remove Papists and discontented persons from about London I have, and shall make a good use of, by letting the Court of Versailles see that the peevishness of the House is very far from favouring our friends at St. Germains, and that, whilst we have such laws against King James and his adherents, and such addresses from our Parliament to put them in force, we are likely enough to preserve our liberties under His Majesty's reign and government without other strength than the united obedience and loyalty of all his subjects. This I say is the turn that must be given to our affairs here; to have them bettered in England, if I were there, I would venture to say at large to Your Lordship what I just set down the *ébauche* of here.

"The people of England are wild, at ease, and separate from the commerce and knowledge of the affairs of Europe; some that have a good deal of wit think too speculatively, for want of experience in relation to things abroad; many are personally malicious at the Court because they are not in it; the Ministers therefore should give His Majesty at once a plain, direct and honest account how this general bent of the nation is at present, and not tell His Majesty things by halves, letting him see the worst side of them when it is too late; but if some of the Ministers be too deep in their parties' interest to do this, His Majesty's business suffers from their partiality, and

as the Scripture says, no man can serve two masters, so no man, I am confident, can serve a King of England, who ought to be master of all parties and persons in the kingdom, who is too much a slave to any party wherein he is engaged.

"With this His Majesty will be pleased to say the kindest things imaginable to the Parliament when he grants a thing, and the most like a king when he refuses; thus did Henry the 7th and Henry the 8th and Elizabeth, who refused more things than any other of our Princes, and yet governed us best: and every word and syllable that the King speaks bears a great weight through all Europe, particularly in this Court.

"As to this project of an Act to restrain the number of officers in the customs, excise, etc., that shall sit in the House, it will limit the King's power more than any of his predecessors have been, and may have a worse effect in future Parliaments than can be seen at present. Men of good learning and experience should be a little encouraged to take notice and talk of this in their conversations in Westminster Hall, in coffee-houses, etc.; the Ministers and great men about the King should find out such persons for this service.

"And it should be intimated that some of these men who are most violent in this matter are breaking into our constitution as much as those who in former reigns were for repealing the penal laws and tests, it being the same thing to the nation if we are hurt by bad subjects or by a bad King, and that we suffered as much by popular rage in '45 as by arbitrary power in '88.

"The Archbishop and those Bishops who have power should hint this to the clergy, and this may be said of the Tory clergy preferably to the other, that if they are in the King's interest, they will most heartily espouse his cause. The others, though they have been active for the King, were so because they were against Popery, and thought King James most against them; but they were bred in latitudinarian principles, and are no great friends at bottom to monarchy, though in the hands of the most righteous Prince that ever reigned. This will be found true by all those brought up in Bishop Burnet's sentiments; for my Lord himself, you will find that he will give *teste baissée* into everything that may please the Princess, that he may have the Duke of Gloucester more entirely his own.

"I will only observe further on this head that the King's speech as soon almost as he was on the throne, in which he said he would sustain the greatness of the monarchy, did him more service than any speech he has made since, and that the body and commonalty of the people of England love the glory of monarchy in general, and will keep up that of the King in particular who has done such great things for us, if they are rightly managed.

"Your Lordship sees with what nakedness and simplicity I dare open my mind to you; I dare affirm a good deal of

what I say is truth, and I believe most of it practicable. I beg Your Lordship not to show it to anybody, neither to my friend Montague or to Mr. Secretary. If any improvement may be made of what I say to His Majesty's service and interest, I shall account myself very happy, and I hope Your Lordship knows me well enough to think that I do not write this out of a saucy desire to shew myself a politician, or an opinion of my own knowledge, but in the duty, zeal and respect that becomes the least of the King's subjects and the most humble and obedient of Your Lordship's servants.

"In August last I sent you a paper sent from England to the Court of St. Germains. It was called *A Moderate Proposal in favour of the Prince of Wales, offered to the Parliament*; there is another paper just now come over, written by the same author, and privately to be dispersed to the Members of Parliament who they think may be trusted with such a thing; it is only to recommend the Prince's interest and does not make at all for King James; some things are to be altered in it here, and it is to be returned back into England. The medal, of which I send you one enclosed, is likewise dispersed amongst the Jacobites on your side. I have the honour of Your Lordship's letter of the 20 Feb.-2 March. I shall do as you command."

Postscript.—"I have power from Mr. Secretary to receive the 350 pistoles (*louis d'ors*) and shall by next post tell him and Your Lordship the joy the distribution of them caused here." *Copy.* (XII. 146–52.)

Richard Powys to Matthew Prior.

1698[–9], March 2[–12]. Whitehall.—"I find our town hath unjustly laid a scandalous story upon you, that Miss Cross was one of your domestics. Indeed I did not give much credit to it, for I did not think it an easy matter for you to be like Alderman Duncombe who keeps a pair in his house, and they live very friendly together. I shall refer myself to Mr. Swinfurt as to my enquiry after her, who, I find, visits her oftener than you do. I have no news to tell you but that our mighty Duke of Bolton was found dead in his bed, and thereupon Miss Crofts, your Irish Queen, is become an English duchess." (VIII. 389.)

The Earl of Portland to [Matthew Prior].

[1698–9], March 2–12. Kensington.—"Je vous remercie, Monsieur, de vos dernières lettres, qui ont esté longtemps à venir, je ne sçais pourquoi; j'en ay receu trois à la fois, du 25 et 28 Feb., et du 4 courant. Je n'ay pas encore receu de réponses aux miennes, dont je suis impatient, comme de mes portraits et plans. La Ch[apel]le de St. Est[ien]ne est fort despourveue de charité et de sagesse, je voudrois que l'on eût moins remercié et plus fait; je ne sçay pourquoy l'on n'est pas content à St. Germain, ils ont lieu de l'estre. L'on doutte

fort ici que le Duc le Berwyck soit allé en Italie. Il est bon que vous ayez l'œuil au guet; pour moy je suis si las du monde que si il y avoit des cloistres de nostre religion je crois que je pourrois m'y retirer; ce ne seroit pourtant pas par regret de la perte que fait nostre Esglise de Mlle de Starremburg; vous avez demeuré trop longtemps à la Haye pour n'en pas cognoistre la carte. J'admire l'histoire de Madame de Valentinois; on la croiroit impossible dans ces circumstances—non qu'une femme ne voulust avoir huit galants à la fois; j'en ay cogneu une qui en avoit dix et neuf et ne peut jamais parvenir au vintiesme; à mesure quelle en prenoit un pour rendre le nombre complet un autre la quittoit. Je vous prie de me mander les noms des huit, je crois en cognoistre plusieurs; le mary ne devroit pas la laisser après la déclaration qu'elle l'ayme plus qu'auquun des huit. Je croys que vous me croyez fort secret d'avoir esté en France sans vous rien dire; si les dames estoi[en]t persuadées de cela, j'aurois aussi huit maistresses, si j'estois en âge d'en avoir grand besoin. Dittes a Mons. le Président de Mesme que je lui pardonneray jamais qu'il m'aye creu à Paris sans le voir. Je croy que Mons. le Duc d'Elbeuf a trouvé un pucellage nouveau, il nous est bien obligé de le lui avoir laissé. Je vous prie de me mander un peu des nouvelles de la Cour ou de la ville qui divertissent; vous jugez bien la raison pourquoi je vous faites cette demande asteur [à cette heure]; nous en avons besoin.

Postscript.—"Je vous envoye si[ci]-joint une lyste des noms de quelques jeunes gens de qualité d'Eccosse qui sont asteur en France, je vous prie d'en parler à Milord Jersey, il seroit bon qu'on les peut un peu attirer chez lui pour les tenir dans le bon chemin, et si ils n'y viennent pas, il sera nécessaire que vous les fassiez observer pour estre informé si ils ne vont pas faire leur cour à St. Germain." (V. 21.)

James Vernon to [Matthew Prior].

1698[–9], March 6[–16]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of the 11th instant, and have communicated it to my Lord Portland, who will himself impart to you his thoughts upon it. Mr. Powys has not yet brought me your bill; when he does, I will forward it all I can. I see your St. Germains people are impatient to be at work. I hope, as they go on, one or another will give us notice of it, that we may be a little provided against them. If they have no other engines but prints, pamphlets and medals, we shall do well enough; but their doctors and students are most to be taken care of, and if they send over commissions, it would be a seasonable service if we could have such notice of it as to be able to apprehend them. This perhaps is an opportunity wherein Brocard may signalize himself, and be entitled to greater advantages than are to be expected only from me. In the meantime I am very willing to furnish what is necessary for his support, and to enable him to appear. I hope likewise you have found

out some others that are rather more to be depended on. Whatever our enemy's design, it may turn to our good as well as our hurt if we have the same success we had last time, and have but timely notice how their game is to be played.

"They have made a seizure at Canterbury of some prints lately brought over of the Prince of Wales, and narrowly missed his medals. The importer escaped them, but I hear who he is; whether I shall find him I know not." (V. 27.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698–9], March 6–16. Kensington.—"J'ay bien receu hier au soir, Monsieur, la vostre du 1–11me. Je suis bien de voir que le Duc de Berwyck soit allé à Rome, parce que beaucoup de gens croyoit qu'il estoit arrivé en ce pais, l'on m'asseure aussi très positivement par plusieurs mains que Breyerley et d'autres gens de sa sorte sont ici; c'est pourquoi je vous prie de bien faire observer si il est encore en France, et de me le mander, car vous sçavez ce que l'on a toujours à craindre, particulier si my Lord Melfort et le party des prestres a le dessus à la Cour de St. Germain, et que my Lord Middleton soit en disgrace. Je croy que ce dernier nous pourroit rendre de grand service si il vouloit, et je ne vois pas quel mal il nous pourroit faire d'estre ici, mais avant que de sçavoir ou demander les sentiments du Roy sur la licence qu'il lui faudroit, il seroit bon de sçavoir si il estoit disposé à le souhaitter et à le mériter; il faudroit que vous voyez si vous trouvez quelque moyen de le faire presentir, et d'employer quelquun sous main pour travailler sur son esprit.

"Je ne manquerai pas au besoin de demander au besoin une copie du chiffre de Mons. Vernon, et de m'en servir si vous aviez besoin de m'escrire quelque chose en chiffre. Le Duc de Berwyck aura bien des mensonges à dire pour bien faire comprendre la persécution des Cath[olique]s Romains en ces pays, où ils n'ont que trop de licence. La preuve de cela est l'adresse de la Maison Basse au Roy; l'on m'a asseuré depuis quelques jours qu'il y avoit plus de 500 Jésuites dans la ville. Je ne sçay ce qui est la cause que la joye des Jacobites se rallentit; la raison qu'ils en ont eue est tousjours la mesme; vous avez bien raison de dire que la nation Anglaise ne connoist pas son bonheur; mais ce qui est bien pire, c'est qu'elle ne cognoist pas son danger, et oublie ce qu'elle doit au Roy, et a soy mesme.

"Vos raisons sont bonnes et vos arguments de mesme, mais vous ne comprennez pas que les meilleures ne valent rien ici, et que plus grand politique s'y trouveroit bien embarrassé. J'ay bien receu la médaille dans vostre lettre, je guetteray si il en paroit ici; nous voyons tant de mauvais escrits que je ne pourray pas recognoistre celui dont vous parlez quand il paroistra. Je vous prie de bien faire observer tous les mouvements qui se feront où vous estes." (V. 25.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

169[8-]9, March 18. [N.S.] Paris.—"Your Lordship will have the goodness to pardon my last letter, and take the freedom with which it was written to proceed from its right motive. I would not be ruined or hanged for my sentiments, so I dare only tell them to Your Lordship, and beg you to burn them. His Majesty, upon the many occupations he has, must (according to my wise politics) e'en take one other trouble upon him; he must be his own Minister, and direct his Council, or at least some of them, what he would have done, rather than rely upon their advice as to what he should do. The Whigs have given him good words, and seem to do their best in Parliament for his interest; but if they do their best, or no, or only (as I say) seem to do it is the question, since it is evident that most of those members who have not been in former Parliaments, and who do in this compose that body which they call the country party, are those who have obstructed the King's business, and yet most of them are and have been always Whigs; on t'other side the Tories in these last affairs have voted against their principle, because the chief of their party are peevish, and the multitude of them follow their example, whilst these leading men are against the Court, right or wrong, because they are not of it: the remedy that is to be found to this evil is that in one and the other party some should be gained by His Majesty's goodness and kindness, and others made sensible of his displeasure; this was practised by King Henry the 7th and Queen Elizabeth with success, who, as I observed to Your Lordship, were our best Princes and ruled us best.

"The people of St. Germains continue to think they have many friends in St. Stephen's Chapel, and, if things go on at this rate, make sure of returning to England. The Duke of Berwick, I am informed, left Turin the 24th of February and went to Venice; this appears by a letter from the Duke to Col. Hamilton, and I think we may rely upon the information. I am next to thank Your Lordship for your favour of yours of the 2–12. I have informed myself from time to time of the actions of those persons you sent as of all others here whom I have any reason to suspect; the Marquis of Montrose is gone to Orleans, he is under the inspection of a governor, who is violently a St. Germains man, and the young gentleman is, I believe, in his heart so, too.

"Lord Nythsdeal [Nithsdale] is chief of the family of Maxwell, a Roman Catholic, and cousin to Sir George Maxwell likewise here; he is likewise a St. Germains man, though outwardly civil to my Lord Jersey and us; he has married my Lord Montgomery's sister out of the monastery at Pontoise, and is carrying her home to Scotland.

"The Earl of Ken'nule [Kinnoul] is a Roman Catholic bred here in France, a man of no genius; one sees him in all companies, and, I think, without great consequence.

"The rest mentioned in the list are honest men to their country and His Majesty's Government.

"Sir George Maxwell, who, I have said, is here, is a riddle, he came to my Lord Jersey's entry, hopes to get leave to return to England, yet is commonly with my Lord Clare and and Mr. FitzJames, whom they call my Lord Albemarle, and talks of going with the latter to Malta and Constantinople: he games, he drinks, and he converses with all parties and all nations.

"As to Mademoiselle Staremberg, they give out here that she is not to change her religion to be la Comtesse d'Auvergne, but this is, as I suppose, to make her doing so sometime after she is married seem to proceed from her own choice, and not from any worldly consideration. Your Excellency observes that having lived long at The Hague I must have known *la carte du pays;* I do indeed, my Lord, so well as to think that the Lady would fairly have turned Jew, if Suasso would have married her when he was a widower. The difference between a great Ambassador, that is, Mons. de Heemskirk and I [*sic*], a little secretary, in this point is that I only write this to my Lord Portland, whilst he says publicly at people's tables—'Allons! je la connois bien, elle est ma cousine; Messieurs les fils du Comte d'Auvergne ne doivent pas se fâcher contre leur belle-mère, car en trois mois de tems elle sera autant aux fils qu'au père': this is equally civil and discreet in a man of his character.

"I am ashamed not to have been able to send your plans and pictures sooner; my Governor assured me on Monday that I should have the former this week, and Rigault will, I think, be at last as good as his word in finishing the pictures; I will send them both as soon as possibly I can.

"The peevishness of our friends at St. Stephen's Chapel is sufficient to make any man wish for a cloister, but I hope in God Your Lordship is above all such thoughts, for 'tis from such men as you that the tide must be stemmed and the waves broken: and great and good men are most necessary to the preservation of the State in the most troublesome times, so that I hope, my Lord, for all your being weary of the world, we shall long enjoy you as our patron and friend, and good men continue to be obliged to you." *Copy.* (XII. 156–60.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1699, March 21. [N.S.] Paris.—"I troubled Your Lordship with so long a letter last post that I should not have written to you by this but to acknowledge the favour of yours of the 6–16. I am informed that 15, 84, 114, 32, 85, 58, 114 is still in 1055. I wish to God I could 583, 588. [*Cf* p. 274, *supra*.] I do my best in that affair and everything else relating that way.

"The Duke of Berwick is (as I am informed) at Venice.

"The enclosed lets Your Lordship know the common occurrences." *Copy.* (XII. 163.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1698–9], March 16–26. Kensington.—"Je vous asseure, Monsieur, que j'ay leu vos dernières lettres avec satisfaction ; vos raisonnements sont justes, mais il y a peu de monde ici de vostre sentiment, pas mesme vostre meilleur ami, ou du moins si ils le sont, lui et tous ceux du Clubb n'agissent pas comme si ils l'estoient. Il n'y a point de 'Spirit,' à moins que ce soit dans un 'Committee of Elections' : du reste, quant il est question des affaires publiques, l'on ne fait rien que par manière d'acquit, sans feu ni ardeur, et à peine les gens peuvent retarder leur dîner, pendant que pour l'intérest du parti ou d'un homme qui en porte le nom, l'on voit toutte la chaleur du monde, et comme si le salut de la nation en dépendoit, de quoy l'on ne semble pas estre sensible dans les choses véritablement essentielles. Enfin l'on est comme les gens malades de léthargie très dangereuse parce que les malades ne sentent pas leurs maux, qui ne se guérissent que par des remèdes violents. Dieu voeuille qu'ils ne soyent pas fatals.

"Vos lettres ne sont veues que d'un seul, là où ils vous font du bien. Soyez seur que je vous ayme trop pour en faire un autre usage. Il faut encore que je vous dise que le remède que vous proposez, quoy que bon, est quasi impraticable, parce que nos gens, quoy qu'ils l'approuvent en général ne sçauroi[en]t jamais convenir d'auquune personne en particulier du parti contraire sans y trouver des exceptions insurmontables quant l'on vient à en nommer. Je ne m'estonne pas qu'à St. Germain l'on soit persuadé d'avoir des amis 'in St. St[ephen]'s Chapel' ; je croy qu'ils ont raison.

"Je croy ce que vous me dittes de Mlle Starrenburg : Swasso est un bon parti à qui ne s'attache pas aux scrupules de religion. J'admire la belle prudence de l'ambassadeur parent de la dame ; il y a des petites maisons en France, où il y a des logements à louer.

"Je ne veux plus songer à mes tableaus, ni aux plans. Il en est de cela comme de toutte autre chose, beaucoup de belles promesses et peu d'effects. Mandez moy comment se porte Madame de Meyercroon ; dans son affliction je reçois si peu de ces nouvelles." (V. 33.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles] Montague.

1699, April 1. [N.S.] Paris.—"By the last post we hear that my Lord Jersey is recalled, my Lord Manchester named to succeed him, and I ordered to stay here till the newest of these Ex[cellen]cies arrives here. I know not what my Lord Jersey is designing for in England ; but if it be to be Secretary of State, I presume I may be his Ellis, which is descending from the high rope to tumble more safely upon the ground,

and it is time for me so to do after what I have seen in foreign employments, and as far as I can see by my being ordered to stay only my Lord Manchester's coming, something of this kind is designed for me. I have written to my Lord Manchester, and upon his answer shall be ready to serve him with all the zeal and ardour which I owe to the blood of the Mountagus. For God's sake will you think of a little money for me, for I have fluttered away the Devil and all in this monkey country, where the air is infected with vanity, and extravagance is as epidemical as the itch in Scotland. My bounty money from the King is now due, five hundred pounds; if one could get a warrant signed for it till you thought a little of my arrears; for to be pawned in France and lose my hopes in England at one time is too much for any man to bear who was not born under the star of Colonel Powers. I beg you to help me in these whimsical circumstances under which I lie at present, though God knows all the return I can make you is promising to continue for ever with the greatest truth and respect, &c." *Copy.* (XII. 172.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF MANCHESTER.

1699, April 1. N.S. Paris.—"I might congratulate your being named to succeed my Lord Jersey, as I bear part in what I am sure will be for the good of His Majesty's affairs, as I rejoice in any honour that accrues to your family in general, or as I have a particular respect and (if I may dare to use the expression) a friendship for Your Lordship. You see, my Lord, how copious a subject I have and how easily I could send you on this occasion a panegyric instead of a letter, but my oratory shall go no further at present than to acknowledge the favour of your letter, and your kind discoursing of my affairs with Mr. Mountague, and to offer Your Lordship my best endeavours in your service here. I know not when Your Lordship designs to be at Paris, but I take it for granted it will not be long first, if you determine your coaches and equipage to be made here, since they may be making and your house furnishing, you being here; since you are not obliged to see anybody except privately, and you please yourself till you have had your public audience, and Your Lordship knows, your appointments commence from your taking leave of His Majesty; but this is a consideration Your Lordship will best judge of, and I will only say upon this head that the beauty of one's coaches and the *bel air* of one's liveries are things essential to a man's reputation in France. I presume Mr. Stanyan will come out again with Your Lordship; if so, it would not be amiss that he were here before Your Lordship, that I might remit to him the state of our affairs, and Your Lordship might find things in a method; and if a house-steward or some such servant were here, Your Lordship would find the advantage of it at your arrival, provided you do not design to be here soon yourself. You can hardly imagine

how different [*sic*] it is to get a house fit for your quality and character in the Fauxbourg St. Germains. My Lord Jersey was for want of a house in that quarter obliged to take up with one at the other end of the town, which is a most intolerable inconvenience. He had just remedied it by taking a new house in the Fauxbourg at Easter next, and in my opinion Your Lordship cannot do better than to take his bail and continue it; the house is perfectly fit for you, and in the best part and wholesomest air of the town, not far from where my Lord Port[land] lived, and by consequence near the Tuilleries, the Cours, the Comedy, convenient for Versailles, and for the foreign ministers and the English to come to you. My Lord has taken this house with the clause of six months, that is, you giving six months' warning to the proprietor as he reciprocally to you, you are at liberty to leave the house, the rent of it is 6,000 *livres* per annum, that is, at present, 400*l.* sterling, so that, if Your Lordship takes my Lord Jersey's bargain, you have a house till October, at which time you may renew the bail, or quit the house, as you please, for the expense of 3,000 *livres;* and I think, my Lord, you cannot do better; as to furniture my Lord Jersey would dispose of some of his to Your Lordship, such as tables, chairs, bureaus for books, escritoires, ordinary beds for servants, English pewter, *batterie de cuisine*, and such lumber as one hates to bring and yet must have. My Lord has eight fine grey horses (Dutch) which he would likewise dispose of; he has another set of black horses or mares (for, faith! I am not jockey enough to know which they are), which, I believe, you may likewise have, but I must beg Your Lordship to give me your answer by the next post, if possible, as to these horses, the house and household-stuff, for fear they should be disposed of otherwise. For such kind of reasons as these I repeat to Your Lordship that it would be necessary that you sent some agent before, who, knowing what goods you bring with you, may supply what you may want. In the meantime, my Lord, you have a very good *homme d'affaires* here, for my Lord Jersey at the same time that he congratulates Your Lordship's succeeding him, offers you his service, and for myself, my Lord, I hope you will command me as you would do one of your own domestics." *Copy.* (XII. 165–8.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1699, April 1. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have the favour of Your Lordship's letter of the 13–23, and by the same post we receive the news of my Lord Jersey's being recalled and my Lord Manchester named to succeed him. I have orders upon this occasion to stay till my Lord Manchester's arrival, which, I hope, will be soon after my Lord Jersey's departure, for I would fain have the honour to give Your Lordship an account of things here before the King goes for Holland, and be in England whilst I might have the happiness of seeing and being pro-

tected by my Lord Portland at my coming, since it was in obedience to Your Lordship's service that I went out of it. I shall leave the memoirs and journals so perfect in my Lord Manchester's hands that he will have it traced to him, and need only follow them to be sure of being right. Your Lordship opened so fair a way that your successors cannot mistake, and I may return (according to His Majesty's present orders) as soon as my Lord Manchester shall be arrived here : in this and in everything I refer myself wholly to His Majesty's orders ; that is best for me which His Majesty commands, and what country, what condition, what employment so ever he gives me it is the glory of my life to take and to labour in for his service ; in England (possibly) I should not be useless. I hope, my Lord, you will not think it vanity that I say so, or that in my former letters I have touched upon some points infinitely above me ; I will excuse myself for all I have written of this kind upon my zeal and truth for the King's interests, and upon the confidence which Your Lordship's kindness to me did inspire me with. By that *un seul de mes amis* that saw my letters Your Lordship either means yourself alone or one other who had the greatest right and reason in the world to see them ; in all cases I am far from being in pain whilst my poor sentiments are in the hand of Your Lordship, who has known and kept the greatest affairs of Europe with equal secrecy and glory.

" My Governor and I had yesterday a long discourse of our English affairs ; he cannot forbear insulting a little and showing his satisfaction at the breaking our troops. Whatever I thought in my heart, I answered him by an historical account of our Parliament's proceedings in the reigns of those Princes whom we loved and revered most, of the nature of our government, and of the laws of our constitution, and insensibly led him to see that no step in the House of Commons was made in favour of the people of St. Germains, and that neither they or theirs were so much as thought of in the deliberations or votes of Parliament. My Governor is always with 1255 [Louis XIV.], and I dare swear pumps me to tell half an hour after the effect of his questions ; he is an excellent courtier, but if they had no abler heads than he, we might sleep in quiet.

" As to the plans, he told me that Mansard is working at them, that the King intended you should have them perfect, and according to the design which His Majesty is now forming, and that he takes it upon himself that you had them not sooner ; he bids me excuse to Your Lordship his not writing to you, but says he will write to you very soon, and he enjoins me to tell you very particularly that the King very often speaks of you and always with great marks of esteem. I would not have the Parliament know this for fear they should impeach my Lord Portland for being too well with France. One may see from the discourse of my Governor and 1438

and the former 1352 [Governor] of Namur that 1129 in 1454 writes all the twittle-twattle he can pick up: a little care should be taken of that Datter, and an eye should be held over those who frequent the conversation of that gentleman.

"Rigault is working at the last copy of my Lord Woodstock's picture. I do whatever I can to hasten him, but I had rather stay than let his men spoil the pieces. I have no news from any of your correspondents, and am not sorry for it; the least that is doing or projecting here the better it is; I am only to add the receipt of your packet of the 16–26. I shall take care of the letters enclosed according to your order." *Copy.* (XII. 169–71.)

Richard Powys to Matthew Prior.

1698[–9], March 23[–April 2]. Whitehall.—"On Friday last your aunt, Mrs. Prior, was taken with a fit of an apoplexy, of which she died on Tuesday morning at four o'clock.

"Having now taken a house I am entering into the expense and trouble of furnishing of it. Pictures, if good, are very dear, if bad, they are the worse furniture I can have; but good prints make as handsome a show. I would beg the favour of you to speak to Mr. Swinford that he would so far trouble himself as to lay out about ten pounds in some of the best prints for me, and to bring them with him when he comes over, and if you please to let him have the money, I will give you credit for it in your account, or will pay it any other way as you or he shall think fit. I would not have the prints of the *Triumph of Alexander*, because those were lately given to me here."

Postscript.—"My Lord Manchester is preparing for France, and the news here is that you are like to stay there. But I hope otherwise." (VIII. 407.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Dorset.

1699, April 4. N.S. Paris.—"Your Lordship will easily judge with what satisfaction I received your letter, and that, though I am a courtier, I speak an undeniable truth when I tell you that no earthly good can be more welcome to me than to hear of my Lord Dorset's health and welfare. My Lord Jersey (as I foresaw) is recalled and generously offers me the accompanying of his fortune. I have had too many proofs of his kindness already to doubt any way of its continuing; and I think I see it already destined by the higher powers that His Lordship will be Secretary and I his Vernon. I have already told His Lordship how weary I am of fluttering here abroad, and I think this is as fair an occasion as can offer for my getting home. I have had all that this sort of employment can give me, and I hope I have made myself so fit for that which is designed me, as to answer in some measure the care Your Lordship had of my childhood in making me fit for any; and as I heartily wish myself near Your Lordship, where

in spite of business some hours might be set aside for common sense, so I beg Your Lordship to contribute to it. My orders are to stay here till my Lord Manchester's coming. I must obey thus far, but cannot stay his entry and audience; this if Your Lordship would hint to Mr. Mountague (in case he should require it) would be a new obligation added to a thousand more which I already owe my Lord Dorset. I would make all imaginable haste home, first, because it is not reasonable (upon a suspicion that my Lord Jersey is Secretary) that he should be left without a *commis*, and secondly, because if I am in England, and in that post before the King goes for Holland, it may happen that I may be left secretary to the Regents; the latter of these reasons I would mention to no man alive but Your Lordship, from whom I would not hide the inmost thoughts and desires of my heart, though you see, my Lord, how much ambition and vanity is mixed with them. I shall perform your commands of all kinds, and desire you to send me any new commission you would have me execute, before I have the honour to embrace your knees and to tell you that I am entirely and eternally, etc." *Copy.* (XII. 178–9.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, March 27[–April 6]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of the 1st of April [N.S.], and don't examine how much you or my Lord Jersey knows of His Excellency's being designed to succeed the Duke of Shrewsbury, but it has been no secret here a considerable time, and I hope you did not receive the first news of it from Mons. Tallard's advices. I did not indeed mention it, because I concluded His Excellency would know it before I could write it. I think it so certain that you may build any measures upon it you would take, and need not write mysteriously about it. You need not doubt but I shall approve of what you judge most for your advantage, and assist in it if I can be of any use. But you must not think of removing before my Lord Manchester arrives; how soon you may get away afterwards, I leave to be adjusted between Mr. Montague and yourself. I understand you have writ to him on this occasion, and I suppose you will receive his answer by this post or the next. I do not conceive that it can be prejudicial to you in whatever you propose to yourself, if you stay till you have put my Lord Manchester into the course of his business, which I have further explained to Mr. Montague than I need mention here." (V. 37.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1699, April 8. N.S. Paris.—"I ought last post to have told you that I had the honour of your letter of the 26th of March; the clearness, the right sense and the judgment of it convince me that I was not in the wrong as to some of my conjectures, and in some points enlighten me a good deal: it is astonishing, I confess, the conduct of those people

who think of everything aright but the safety and honour of the nation : in short such spirits are not to be dealt with. I dare say no more of it at this distance, but hope (according to what I had the honour to write last to Your Lordship) that I may have the opportunity of speaking more upon this subject, as I may have the happiness of seeing you, though I once more repeat that I pay an absolute and entire obedience to His Majesty's commands, and that I beg Your Lordship to think that I have no consideration of what may be for my private interest, but as I may serve the greatest man and the kindest Master in the world.

" There is no kind of news at Versailles ; two nights since threatening papers were set up on Pont Neuf before the pedestal of King Harry's horse against Pontchartrain and the Government, and that there were ten thousand men in Paris dissatisfied enough with the King to come and pull down Versailles. Bagatelles, my Lord. The whole people of France are oppressed and discontented enough, but saying and acting are two things in this country. The plans are at length done, and my Governor promises that I shall have them *au premier jour*, as he calls it, with a letter to excuse their having been retarded so long." *Copy.* (XII. 180.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1699], March 30[–April 9]. Kensington.—" J'ai bien receu, Monsieur, vostre très agréable du 1 d'Avril, N.S. Je serois très aise d'avoir la satisfaction de vous voir de retour ici, mais je croy que vostre ami Mr. Montagu s'y opposera, puis qu'il est trop persuadé du grant besoin que Milord Manchester, pour lequel il s'intéresse, aura de vostre assistance, comme j'en suis persuadé aussi, vous cognoissant comme je fais. Il y a des choses ordinaires dont vous pouvez lui donner des mémoires pour lui servir de règle, mais sur touts les incidents qui arrivent en ce pais là assez souvent, et sur beaucoup d'affaires où il aura besoin de vostre conseil et assistance, ce n'est pas la mesme chose, et si j'estois Mylord Manchester, je serois en désespoir de vous perdre. Le Roy a leu vostre lettre, et votre soubmission à ces ordres ne vous sera pas préjudiciable. Je vous ay témoigné dans ma précédente la satisfaction que l'on a eu des sentiments que vous aves marquez sur les affaires de ce pais, qui n'ont estez veus que de celui seul qui a le droit de les voir. Vous sçavez que je vous veus trop de bien pour en faire un autre usage. Je crois que vous aurez eu de la paine à faire une bonne histoire de l'affaire dont vous avez esté obligé de parler a vostre Gouverneur, que je crois comme vous beaucoup plus grand courtisan qu'habile politique ; sachant comme vous faittes quel usage il fait de ce que vous lui dittes, vous pouvez en faire un bon usage, et je vous fieray bien avec lui. Je vous prie de lui faire bien des compliments de ma part ; les grands généraux ne sont pas tousjours grands ministres. Je suis bien aise

que les nouveaus desseyns de Marly soyent adjoutés au plans, et le seray bien plus de le voir arrivé, avec mes tableaus. J'espère que le Parlement n'aura jamais d'autre sujet de me vouloir du mal, que celui dont vous me parlez, et je ne seray pas en danger de ce costé là. Les gens prennent tant de liberté de parler en ce pais si[ci] qu'il est difficile de faire observer les rapporteurs, et celui que vous dittes, qui escrit tant de fadaises, fréquente tout le monde, et vous sçavez que tous les Jacobites sont autant d'espions, et qu'ils n'ont pas ce caractère escrit au front, quoy que l'on en cognoisse beaucoup. Il est certainement bon de ne rien apprendre des correspondents, pourveu que vous soyes asseuré qu'ils ne se nesgligent pas. Mons. le Prince de Condé m'avoit ordonné de lui faire tenir un plan du labirinthe à Sorgvliet, que je vous ay envoyé ; je vous prie de le lui donner." (V. 40.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1699, April 6[-16]. Whitehall.—" I have your letter of the 1st instant, but can have no hand in helping you away so soon as you desire. I signified to you His Majesty's pleasure for your longer continuance there, and I think it almost indispensable when I consider the conveniency of His Majesty's service. While we have not an Ambassador there, we should at least have an experienced subaltern minister, and not send a perfect stranger with a diminutive character. If His Excellency has better reasons for bringing you over, I wish they may prevail, but I think your longer stay there will be useful to the King and your being here before Michaelmas will be of no great use either to my Lord Jersey or yourself, if this summer be spent as the last was under the administration of Lords Justices. My Lord Jersey may bear a part in it, but the secretaryship will be Mr. Yard's province, he being in possession of it, and that admits of no colleague while it lasts. In my opinion, therefore, your business is to resolve upon staying there some months, and to press my Lord Manchester's coming over, that the time may be shortened ; and for your revocation, leave the care of that to my Lord Jersey, whom you may depend upon that he will not prolong it beyond what is absolutely necessary. In the meantime I will solicit Mr. Montague to take care of your arrears, that you may have some compensation for absence.

" If the enclosed advice contain what news is extant, I am very well satisfied. I would not have him make news for us, as I believe he has with his old repeated story." (V. 46.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1699, April 18. [N.S.] Paris.—" It is with the greatest sincerity imaginable that I acknowledge the particular favour of two letters from my Lord Portland of the 30th of March and the 3rd of April.

"As to public affairs there is little stirring; devotion employs the week, poor King James is running about, first to the Jesuits, then to the Benedictines. He dined yesterday with the Bishop of Autun. Thus, God be thanked, if acting with prudence would do him any good, he would not have the benefit at so dear a rate; and my Lord Middleton, who traces about with him, is perfectly out of countenance for him; as an English gentleman I sent to see them told me.

"The Queen is in the meantime doing her devotions at Challott [Chaillot]; they have ordered that no Protestant servant of any condition whatsoever shall be about their son.

"Burk parted from hence on Wednesday morning; I presume he has kissed your hand before now, and delivered you the plans and Mons. Villeroy's letter with another packet which I gave him for Your Lordship. The pictures I have, and shall send them over by the first of my Lord Jersey's household that comes over; I would have given them likewise to Burk, but they were too big for him to carry, for he went post. Your Lordship has always been so very kind to my affairs that I am sure you will pardon me mentioning them once more to you. My Lord Jersey upon a supposition that he is to be Secretary of State offers me a seat in his office; all that I can say in this thing is that with His Majesty's leave I would accept it, but my Lord Jersey plainly says that he neither can nor will stay long for his *commis;* so that if I am ordered to stay longer in France, that proposition is impossible.

"I have formerly said that, if His Majesty thinks it in the least for his service that I stay, I have no will but his command: but otherwise I know not where my small services will be more in their proper sphere than if I were in the office, and therefore I say by Mr. Mountagu's leave I would fain come home, and must beg Your Lordship to contribute to it, though by what I have written to Lord Manchester, Mr. Mountague and Mr. Secretary Vernon, I hope it is already determined that I either come hence with Lord Jersey or stay not long after him. I ask Your Lordship ten thousand pardons that I dare trouble you in this kind." *Copy.* (XII. 185–6.)

Richard Powys to Matthew Prior.

1699, April 10[–20]. Whitehall.—"On Saturday morning Mrs. Stepney went to wait on Mr. Chancellor to return her thanks for his favours to her brother. Amongst other things they fell into discourse relating to you, in which Mr. Chancellor said he found you were bent on returning home and depending upon my Lord Jersey, that he would not therefore press you to stay with my Lord Manchester, that he thought my Lord Manchester and he should be as able to take care of you as my Lord Jersey, that the most you could expect from my Lord Jersey was to be under him in the Secretaries' office, the

profits whereof are now very small, that he looked upon this as a degrading to you in the post you are in, and seeing my Lord Manchester is his relation he would not press you upon this subject, because you might look upon it as done out of respect to my Lord Manchester, without regard to your interest. Mrs. Stepney asked him if he would give her leave to acquaint me with what he had said, that I might take some notice of it to you, upon which he permitted her so to do.

"I will not pretend to give you any advice one way or other, you are the best ma[ster] of your own inclinations, and know what will be most for your own good. I have faithfully given you the account I received as near as I can remember. I could heartily wish for my own part to have the happiness of being near you here; but I must observe to you the profits of the Secretaries' office are sunk so low, that Mr. Ellis hath seriously protested to me he hath never made 500*l.* a year since he hath been in it. Add to this the uncertainty and changes that you have seen in that office. Nor do I see how you can refuse my Lord Manchester without losing Mr. Montague, who hath always been a sure friend to you, and will, I am confident, always have a very good interest with the King. If I have said more than I ought to have done upon this subject, you will forgive me when you know I have no interest but your service in it." (VIII. 415—17.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1699, April 10[–20]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter of the 15th, and see more of your impatience to be coming over with my Lord Jersey, which in some considerations I can't blame you for, and I heartily wish the obstacles to it were not so great. It is my humour to deal plainly and sincerely with all men, and I am sure that is best among friends; I should only prevaricate in the King's business. If I would seem to be persuaded that your staying for my Lord Manchester's arrival was of no consequence, perhaps some of that Lord's friends may dislike your impatience on his account, as desiring he might be assisted by one of your experience, and one can't blame them for it. But the consideration I have is that the interval between the two Ambassadors cannot, nor ought it to, be supplied but by yourself; this is so evident and even to you, who have your view turned another way, that I need not say more of it. How long you need stay after my Lord's arrival is not the present business, but I think my Lord ought to take one with him who should ease you as soon as is possible, and I believe it will be in my Lord Jersey's power to limit that time. Since, therefore, there is no intention of dividing you from your Lord, you need not be inquisitive what else is designed for making you amends. I told you in my last that what you had to do was to hasten my Lord Manchester's coming over, and to desire Mr. Montague that

he may carry a Secretary of the Embassy over with him. He has his eye upon one, who, I think, is so docile that you may quickly instruct him. I need not tell you it is Mr. Stanyan of this office, and as I must part with an useful man for the sake of the Embassy, I don't doubt but my Lord Jersey will be willing to expect one for a much shorter time.

"When you have taken a good resolution that is made a virtue or merit of necessity, you will write to Mr. Montague about the payment you expect, and you will soon see what a sacrifice obedience is." (V. 47.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1699, April 22. [N.S]. Paris.—"My Lord Neathsdale [Nithsdale] went from hence on Monday: before his going he had a private audience of King James, and (as I am informed) received a commission from him by which my Lord is made lieutenant of four counties in Scotland nearest his estate, my Lord having promised in the name of the gentlemen of these counties that they will be ready under his directions to obey at any time King James's order.

"One Morloy is, I hear, dispatched with letters from St. Germains for England. I have advised Mr. Secretary Vernon as much as I know of the place of his abode, and have written to Mackay at Dover to get him taken up, if possible.

"Nothing more occurs besides the common news which I take the boldness to send enclosed. I hope it is determined that I come back as soon as my Lord Manchester arrives here: Mr. Mountague may compliment me as handsomely as he pleases, but I will not begin the trade a fourth time except, I say, His Majesty commands me; and in that case, if it were to live in the Highlands of Scotland (which with respect to my Lord Selkirk's better judgment is not the happiest place upon earth), I should be very far from disputing it, or murmuring." *Copy.* (XII. 189.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, April 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of the 22nd, and am sorry the bare naming of Michaelmas should make you uneasy. I thought it could not have altered anything in your design of being with my Lord Jersey. If he has another opinion of it, and thinks you may be spared sooner from Paris, I have nothing to oppose against it. I must own my chief consideration was whether the King would be so well served if you came away and left the business in the hands of an unacquainted and untried secretary, but that my Lord Jersey will judge better of when he is here. It will be a matter within his province which I shall not meddle with after his arrival. In the meantime I hope I may be excused for delivering my opinion freely according to the best of my understanding. If I thought you less useful there, I should be more indifferent in this point,

I did not mention Mr. Yard as if there were to be any competition between you, or as if it were any question who should be Secretary to the Lords Justices, which I am perfectly unconcerned in; but I may be allowed to know that a Secretary of State barely as such will have very little to do for either himself or his *commis* while the administration is in the hands of Justices, and there is no other time when their under-secretaries can be so well spared. What I have aimed at was to show how practicable I thought it that you might keep your dependence on my Lord Jersey and yet allow some time to the conveniency of the King's affairs there; but if my notions don't agree with other people's, I am not fond of them, and can be contented to see any other way taken.

"I have acquainted the Secretary of Scotland with my Lord Niddesdale's coming over, who had heard of his marriage and his resort to St. Germains. When he gets to Scotland, they may have something to say to him there. In the meantime, if he passes by Dover, I have taken care to have him searched; and if he brings any commissions or letters that I can take notice of, I will secure them and the person too, or otherwise I will leave him to the laws of his own country.

"The Secretary will order some of his people to make inquiry after Danes and Achtmooty, but Mackye tells me he hears they have been at Rouen for some time subsisting upon a small pension that is allowed them.

"Macky has received your letter here in town about Marly, and is going down to Dover to look after that and some other matters. When I hear he is gone by Dover, I shall make some inquiry about him in his other quarters." (V. 49.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, April 24[–May 4]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter of the 19–29 to acknowledge. I saw my Lord Manchester to-day, who could give me no account how soon he should be ready for his journey; he said he had a letter from you by the last post, but you took no notice to him how much of your time you would give him, so that he did not know what he was to trust to. I told him what I thought your desires led you to, and presumed to give him my advice that he should consider whom he would choose to serve him in quality of Secretary of the Embassy, and propose him to the King, that he might be dispatched away to Paris; and when he had been some time with you, he would judge of the business that was to pass through his hands, and be able to satisfy His Lordship within what time after his arrival you might be spared. My Lord gave me little answer, but I find you two have such different views that I can't expect to please either of you, which is the common fate of arbitrators, especially if they act impartially. Upon my Lord Jersey's arrival my Lord Manchester will explain himself, and that is the properest time for it. In the meantime I have read your letter to the King, that he may know your submission to his pleasure.

"I have not seen my Lord Albemarle since I had your letter, nor is it very material to your purpose, for nothing will or ought to be resolved till my Lord Jersey's arrival, and what he thinks fit, I am confident, will be ordered.

"What you write of a young man is easy to be credited by the father's behaviour. I will endeavour to see what passes between him and his correspondent.

"You will remember what you writ to me the 11th of March about a paper you had seen. We have it now in print, but I can't yet learn who have been the dispersers of it, the discovery whereof must lead us to the printer and author." (V. 50.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1699, May 6. N.S. Paris.—"I have omitted troubling Your Lordship for some time past, having had nothing considerable to write; the same reason might still be good, the greatest news we have being that Madame de Maintenon has had a fever and the Dauphin a cold; King James has likewise been indisposed. Your Lordship is well enough acquainted with these people to know that they blow up the least sparkle of anything done in England, and draw the most unreasonable consequences imaginable from it. I had the honour to dine yesterday with the Count de Marsan; Mons. le Grand, my Governor, Tourville and the Marquis de Gevres were there; the questions they asked and the reasons they formed about the Duke of Ormond quitting his post in the Guards were very many and very wrong; and it is with great satisfaction that I find our letters, received to-day, tell us that affair is accommodated. From thence the discourse ran upon a subject which I ask Your Lordship's pardon that I dare mention; you will know that it was your not going to Newmarket; and here their reasonings were as just as they were in relation to the Duke of Ormond; and I hope I shall be able to give them a like account of there being nothing in their surmises and guesses; all that I will observe to Your Lordship is that Mons. le Grand and Count Marsan seemed (and I believe are) heartily your friends; I cannot say as much of my Governor.

"Mr. Cockburn brought me the other day a recommendatory letter from Your Lordship, which has and always shall have the power of a command to me.

"I have told Mr. Van Leuven that the pictures must come over with my Lord Jersey's goods; I dare not venture them otherways; the Prince de Condé says he will himself thank Your Lordship for the little plan you sent him.

"Your Lordship will know surest and soonest how my small affairs will be determined, and you will accordingly dispose of your commands to me; in all probability I am to stay in France till my Lord Manchester comes, but not long after." *Copy.* (XII. 195–7.)

Alexander Stanhope to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 8. [N.S.] Madrid.—Giving account of a tumult that took place at Madrid on the preceding April 28, as follows :—

"The Corregidor, Don Francisco de Vargas y Lezama, being in the Plaza Mayor about seven of the clock in the morning, a priest came to him and complained of the great want of bread, as at the same time did a poor woman, to whom he answered very imprudently, they might thank God it was not double the price, although it be now above as dear again as usual, and to the woman in particular who complained of a great charge of children he replied, rallying, it was her fault to let her husband get so many, upon which she threw a pair of pigeons she had in her hands in his face, calling him *cornudo* and *ladrón*, and immediately all the rabble pursued him throwing stones, and had certainly killed him, if he had not, as fast as his horse could run, secured himself in the *Casa de Ayuntamiento* or Guildhall ; so [he] came off only with a broken pate. The rabble marched out with great noise crying out, '*Viva el Rey y muera el Conde de Oropesa, el Almirante y el Corregidor!*' with this noise entering into the courts of the Palace, and up the King's apartments, crying out, 'Bread, bread!' and 'we will have Ronquillo for our Corregidor.' His Majesty, hearing this noise, asked what the matter was ; at first they told him nothing but some idle boys ; but the disorder increasing, and it being impossible to dissemble the matter any longer, [they] told him it was a tumult of the people, who, wanting bread in the Plaza, came crying out to His Majesty to remedy it. The King bid the Conde de Benavente go and give them some money to quiet them, which he having attempted in vain returned to His Majesty, saying nothing would satisfy them but to have Don Francisco Ronquillo for their Corregidor again, as he had been three or fours years before, and then they had bread enough and wanted nothing. The King, looking out at the window and seeing more and more trooping together every minute, ordered that Ronquillo should be immediately sworn in the office of Corregidor ; and the Conde de Benavente went immediately to fetch him from the *Consejo de Hazienda* [Council of Revenue], where he was then sitting, and brought him with him to the Royal Council of Castile, attended by the rabble, shouting, '*Viva Ronquillo, Viva Ronquillo!*' Being come into the King's presence, he begged His Majesty would excuse him from accepting the employment, alleging that, though his zeal was great for His Majesty's service and the public, he had so many superiors to hinder him from expressing it as he desired, that it could have no effect. To which the King replied, commanding him to accept it, as he desired, for the pacifying the tumult upon his own conditions, independent upon the Royal Council or any other superior whatsoever to control him. Upon this order he went down to the

said Council to take his oath, and the people, thinking it long in doing, came with great fierceness to the Council door, beating at it with their feet and throwing great stones, and some also in at the windows, repeating their former cry, 'Let Ronquillo come, we will have him for our Corregidor!' The Council were quickened to dispatch him by the melancholy account that another body of the mob were burning the Conde de Oropesa's house, and that, if Ronquillo did not appear immediately, there would be no saving it. He then came out as Corregidor, with *vara*, or white staff, in his hand, and mounting on horseback, went from the Palace, attended by the crowd, crying out all the way, '*Viva el Rey, Victor Ronquillo!*' and although by this pretence the fury was something abated, yet they soon began again to tear down the iron grates before the windows; some of them they got down, and about fifteen of them rushing in, but without arms, as indeed most of them were, the Conde's servants, as is believed, killed them all, for they have never appeared since, and 'tis said the bodies were thrown into a well. Then, having secured the doors and windows, they fired out of the house among the rabble, and killed five or six, one reformed *alférez* [ensign], whose body his companions took up and carried immediately away to the Palace, and went with it as far as the top of the stairs leading to the King's lodgings before they were stopped, crying out, 'Justice, justice!' and demanding the heads of the Conde de Oropesa and Almirante. The Sacrament in this confusion was brought out from several churches, with processions of all the Orders of Friars with crucifixes in their hands and a crucifix placed in every window as a security to the house. These holy things quieted them for some time, yet still they continued together in the same place. Ronquillo then thinking to divide them and draw them off, said :—'*Hijos*, children, let us go to the Palace, and I will intercede with the King for your pardon.' Above five thousand followed him, and all this rabble, going with him into the great court of the Palace just under the King's window, roared out as before:—'*Viva el Rey, muera Oropesa*, let the King appear, let the King appear!' At this noise, the Queen came to the window, telling them, '*Hijos*, the King is asleep.' The rabble answered in a great rage :—'We do not believe it, for this is no time to sleep.' At last the Queen, finding their obstinacy to see the King, retired from the window weeping, and called His Majesty, who saluted them with his hat and a lower bow than ever he used to make before [and] said :—'*Hijos mios*, I have given to the Corregidor the orders you desire with absolute power to do whatsoever may conduce to your satisfaction,' and at the same time, addressing himself to the Corregidor, said :—'And to you, Don Francisco Ronquillo, I give all necessary power to do or undo whatsoever may be for the ease of my subjects'; and the people replying that they desired His Majesty's pardon, and that they might not be punished for this

tumult, the King answered them :—'I pardon you, nor shall you be punished either now or hereafter, of which I call God to witness,' at the same time wafting a handkerchief in the air, after which he saluted them with his hat as before, and retired from the window. That part that remained before Oropesa's house were still pressing to enter, demanding those fifteen of their company either dead or alive. Then the King's pardon was publicly proclaimed by the *alcaldes* [magistrates] for what was past, for all that would retire home, and severe chastisement threatened to their further disobedience; notwithstanding which they still continued making a great noise and throwing stones (for they had no other arms) at the doors and windows. About ten at night some soldiers, being got into the house as a guard, fired again upon the people, killing three and wounding many. The Conde de Oropesa, who was ill in bed with a fit of an ague when his house was first invested, with the assistance of the Marquis de Castel Rodrigo (the only *Grande* that came near him in this affliction), by breaking a hole through a wall into another house, found means to escape to the house of the *Inquisidor General*, as did also his lady and children; and before they could get ready to be gone, the rabble pressed so hard upon the house as they were like to force in, which is the excuse I hear was given for the firing that killed the *alférez* and the rest. All the Royal Council of Castile, and many of the *Grandes* stayed in the Palace all night; the Almirante upon the first noise of the tumult went from his house in a mean coach, with two mules and curtains drawn, by a private way to the Palace; nevertheless by some who knew him, was saluted with *gallina* [coward] and *traydor* [traitor]. The Cardinal of Toledo was at Toledo, he of Cordova went among the rabble, giving them ill words and threats when they were in their highest ferment; they pushed him from one to another, till a body of priests and friars got round him and carried him off. In the morning at four o'clock all appeared quiet near the Conde's house, the mob being separated of themselves and gone home, and about fifty reformed officers were placed in all the avenues near it." *Copy.* (XII. 206–12.)

The Earl of Portland to [Matthew Prior].

[1699,] May 1–11. Windsor.—"Je vous remercie, Monsieur, de vostre très agréable du 6me. La perte ne seroit pas grande quant deux des malades auroi[en]t pris le chemin de l'autre monde. Les gens veulent raisonner par tout et plus là où vous estes qu'ailleurs, je suis bien fâché d'y donner tant de sujet que celui de ma retraitte, mais il n'y a point de remède. Je vous asseure que par tout où je seray je seray vostre ami sincère, quoyqu' inutile. Je ne croyois pas que vostre Gouverneur ne fust pas de mes amis; pour les deux frères je croy qu'il le sont entièrement. Je ne croy pas que vous resterez longtemps en France après l'arrivée de Milord Manchester." (V. 51.)

Matthew Prior to [Charles] Montague.

[1699,] May 20. N.S. Paris.—"I am to acknowledge the kindness of your correspondence in the shape of a quarter on my ordinary and 750*l.* in part of my extraordinary. *I humbly thank your honor* is, you know, all the return I am capable of making. My Lord Jersey will, I presume, speak of my worship to you: if I come home as is designed, our project is to get something besides the seat in his office which may be permanent and atone for what I have at present in Ireland, which will certainly be taken from me unless I go thither, and to the effecting this I am sure you will be as glad to join, as my Lord to speak of it. I have a letter from Lord Manchester, whose commands I shall obey as I ought to do. The revolutions and changings of people's employments and circumstances in England make great part of the discourse of Europe. My Lord Portland's retiring is the present subject, which everybody excuses or blames as he thinks fit; I really have reason enough to be sorry for it.

"My friends in England have kindly married me to my Lady Falkland, and I am particularly obliged to the *Postboy*, who has printed it. I remember I jested with you once on that subject, but in truth never thought of it more than as a thing utterly impracticable. She is an old Troy that will not be taken in ten years, and though fifty strong fellows should get in to her by stratagem, they might e'en march out again at a large breach without being able to set her on fire, but one single sentinel as I am with a thin carcase and weak lungs might lie before her walls till I eat horse-hides and shoe-leather, unless you kindly sent me some refreshments from the Treasury." *Copy.* (XII. 204–5.)

Matthew Prior to Mr. Talbot.

[1699,] May 20. N.S. Paris.—"I am glad to tell you, dear Sir, that I am able in some measure to answer the honour of your commands; the enclosed are the best Greek types here from Robert Stephens; the same that the Greek Louvre impressions are of; and which are only disposed of by the King of France's own order. There is yet a middle letter between these two essays which I send, and a capital letter, better because bigger than the word Κωνσταντῖνος. I have advanced so far by the intercession of some friends here and particularly of Mons. Clément, sous-bibliothécaire du Roy, and the Abbé de Louvois, as to presume that Mons. Pontchartrain and the Archbishop of Reims will consent for the good of learning in general that we may have what we desire of these characters; and upon a price agreed on, and a person sent over from the University for this purpose the thing may succeed; but the conditions they reciprocally desire from us are, that in the preface of some volume which we shall first print we shall own the obligation with some encomium of gratitude, that we shall give them in books from England what we propose

to pay them in money for these types, and keep up a kind of communication with them *propter bonum ac commodum reipublicæ literariæ*, and that we shall give them the way of making that ink in which the essays upon Horace and Virgil which you sent me are printed. You will be pleased to lay this before the University, and to do me the favour to add that in this or anything they have an absolute power to command me, and that, if I may contribute anything towards the improving and promulging the learning that flourishes there, I shall esteem myself less unhappy for having truanted so long in the noise and business of the world; you must give me leave to add the particular respect and friendship with which I am, etc." *Copy.* (XII. 198–9.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1699, May 20. N.S. Paris.—"I am so dead-hearted, my Lord, with your letter of the 1st instant that I know not if I can write sense or no. If the great respect which I bear to Your Lordship has made me never yet to dare to touch upon one certain chord, whilst I only heard talk of the thing by the doubts and surmises of other people, the concern I am now in, since you speak of it yourself, gives me an assurance which otherwise I should not have taken, which is to hope that all will yet be reconciled, and that I may long see my protector and patron at Court: after the resolutions of your own prudence and the advice of your friends what one can say at this distance would be very impertinent, but I should think that the nearness and friendship, which has been so long between His Majesty and Your Lordship, should be divided by nothing but your deaths, and this his service and your real satisfaction seem equally to desire: 'il n'y a point de remède,' dites vous, mi Lord, mais grand Dieu! n'y en a-t-il point aux maux que nous faisons nous mêmes? I dare not philosophise upon this saying of Your Lordship, but in everything there is such a mixture of good and ill that we must take them together, and if my Lord Portland will not suffer a Court upon these conditions, what is to become of those who are obliged to follow it upon harder? Your own family and your friends, my Lord, ought not to be forgotten upon this occasion, and the *Que diroit-on?* in relation to His Majesty ought to be a consideration at a time when my Lord Portland has thoughts of leaving him. You must pardon me, my Lord, that I venture to talk thus, and attribute it to the sincere desire I have that your affairs should go right and happy; and if there is a little mixture of interest to myself in this desire at a time when I know not well what will become of me, you will likewise forgive that too, and believe me in this one truth that, however my poor affairs may suffer by this great stroke, or in what station soever you may be, if you should retire (which I hope God will yet avert), I shall always remain with unchangeable truth and respect, etc." *Copy.* (XII. 200–1.)

Lieutenant Mark Lynch.

1699, May 13[–23]. Paper headed :—The Information of Mark Lynch, Lieutenant of Foot in the Regiment of Albemarle, taken the 13th day of May, 1699."

Alleging that about five months ago at Paris he, Lynch, became acquainted with one Matthew Wall, an Irishman, captain of a privateer in the French service during the late war, who told him at the latter end of March last that there was an opportunity for them to make their fortunes by joining in a design of burning the English fleet at Portsmouth and Chatham; as Mons. Pontchartrain would give them 50,000 *livres* for doing it. They and one Winter, a Swede or a Dane, whom Lynch never saw, but who was said to have been Wall's lieutenant on the privateer, were to take a house or lodging in Portsmouth, where they would be in seaman's apparel, and make artificial fires, or brimstone sheets as Wall called them, to set the ships on fire at the first opportunity of the wind and dark nights. They were also to burn the store-houses where the sails and cables were kept.

Wall shewed him two alleged commissions from the Morocco Ambassador for burning and taking English ships. Lynch ends by proposing that he should return to France to secure these commissions and further information about Wall and Winter, and hasten their journey into England; and place himself in communication with the English Ambassador. (V. 55.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 15[–25]. Whitehall.—"It is very reasonable that you should have the maidenhead of the office, and you have it, for this is the first letter I write from thence; besides, whilst you are in France you are in my province, for Mr. Vernon will have it so. I have seen the Horse, but little passed between us, we are to meet to talk about the business. I have already prepared him for your coming hither, and I hope I shall get Mr. Stannion (Stanyan) away before him, though I do not expect that you should come till my Lord himself arrives. Mr. Vernon will send you directions about Mark Lynch; when you see him, pray endeavour to get out of his hands a paper that I wrote, in which I promise to see him safe into France; that being, he will want my paper no more.

"You will think of settling the best correspondence in France you can for the office against you come over. I wish you here, I assure you. I suppose my family will be here this night or to-morrow at furthest. It is impossible to imagine how unsettled I am, and how uneasy with my new employment." (V. 56.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 15[–25]. Whitehall.—"I gave you an account by last post of my Lord Jersey's arrival, he will now acquaint

you himself that he received the Seals on Saturday, and was sworn yesterday, and took his place at the Cabinet Council.

"You have heard the whole story of Mark Lynch who came over with my Lord Jersey. His Lordship brought him to me, and he gave me the information whereof I send you a copy, you will find his secret is neither more nor less than what Mons. Torcy was informed of and communicated to my Lord Jersey, and that Mons. Torcy may be satisfied he had no more to say, His Majesty thinks it fit that you show them this information. You will perceive by it that this man has been imposed on by Wall, who, I believe, has been guilty of more tricks of this nature, and by the description given of him perhaps you will remember to have seen him or heard of him in Holland. Wall seems to have made a practice of discovering plots and stratagems that were of his own framing, and therefore I can't but think him much more blameable than this poor deluded man, who still persuades himself that he was very cunning in diving into this mystery, and that he is entitled to great pretensions by it. One may judge of his abilities by his offering himself to go back to secure papers and commissions that are nowhere to be found, or if they were, it is a strong presumption in him to think he would be allowed to carry them on. On the other side we can do no less than suffer him to pursue his own windmills. It is not fit for him to stay here, and my Lord Jersey, as was reasonable, assured him of his liberty to return; he goes back with an imagination that he shall perform all he has undertaken, which might cost him dear, if there be not some consideration had of his weakness and simplicity; but that, I hope, you will manage in his behalf, that he be not undone by a bantering impostor. He will go away from hence in two or three days by the way of Dover; I will give him two or three lines to be delivered to you, and advise him to see you as soon as he can, that, when you have considered the circumstances of his case, you may think of some proper methods to prevent his ruin; but he must not be sent back hither, since we can do nothing either with him or for him.

"I believe my Lord Jersey will write to you to get from him a paper that my Lord gave him under his hand.

"I don't trouble you with news, for that, I suppose, you receive from your own office.

"I shall pay Mr. Powys the sum I told you of, out of which I suppose all disbursements will be discharged as well to Brocard as the rest.

"My Lord Jersey will take care of all these payments for the future, and I understand he will write to you about it." (V. 57.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 17[–27]. Whitehall.—"I have yours of the 20th and 23rd: do with my watch as you will, or keep it till

I see you. I believe my Lord Portland designs to quit everything by degrees; he is already without the key, but still meddles with business, which gives him occasion sometimes to see the King, who will not dispose of the key in hopes to get his old servant back. I am sorry for what you say of our friend, but it is a very nice point to speak to him of. I fear there is too much truth in it. I find the King is very willing to have you come home, and I shall do what I can to dispatch Mr. Stannion to receive your instructions, though you must stay till my Lord Ambassador comes to relieve you. He says he makes what haste he can; he makes all his equipage here, which will have *l'air Anglois* undoubtedly. He told me that Mr. Montague would take care of your money concerns upon the receipt of your last letter. I wish everybody may do what I think will bring you over, for was I not Secretary, I should not be less glad to see you than I am. Mr. Lynch will ask you some subsistance upon my account; you may give him something, for I would not have him complain of me, and I suppose he will soon be taken out of your hands by Mons. Torcy.

"The sell almoniak [*sic*] and the drops which you receive, pray divide them in three equal parts and give to Mons. Tambenau, Mons. Villequer and Comte D'Evreux with my compliments to them. The family is just now arrived; il ne manque que vous.

"Pray remember the passport that Gardie wrote to you for.

"Pray make my compliment to Marquis St. Maurice." (V. 59.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, May 27. [N.S.] Paris.—"I was yesterday at Court performing the first acts of my Interregnum Ministry. Upon my alleging that the *réclameurs* of the English sloop sold *en Bretagne* had written to me again upon that subject, Mons. de Torcy assured me that the Court had written as effectually as they could to the *Procureur du Parlement de Bretagne*, that the *réclameurs* might have justice. This justice being rendered, if Mr. Seward and the others interested find any contravention in the judgment against the formal *statuts* and rules by which the *Parlement* proceeds in these cases, they may appeal to the *Conseil Royal* for a *cassation* of that sentence; of this I inform Mr. Seward very mildly. Mons. de Torcy has not ordered the taking up the two murderers, though the advice you gave him seemed particular enough.

"The next affair was that of Cooper. I had communicated to him the substance of Mons. de Marillac's letter to Mons. de Pontchartrain that, if any articles in Cooper's case were not thought to be sufficiently terminated by the *juges* that liquidated the whole, Mons. de Marillac would give Mons. de Pontchartrain the reason of what was done in every particular.

Cooper accordingly brought me yesterday an extract of the articles which he thought not fairly judged, which extract I gave to Mons. de Torsi, who will refer the consideration of it to Mons. de Pontchartrain, and the answer, which, I believe, will not be much more than what is already accorded, is the ultimate help he can give Cooper in this affair.

"Le Bas' pretensions are downright refused. Mons. de Torsy took occasion to tell me so in plainer terms than he had ever mentioned it to Your Excellency.

"For the seven last *galériens* for which you asked liberty, *néant*. They have deserted or are condemned for life (a good deal of which is true), and the King says he will release no more of these poor people. Mons. de Torcy will send your books to me as soon as they are bound.

"I am closeted and catechized about my Lord Portland's retreat by all the world from Mons. le Prince down to Callières. Thursday's letters are not yet arrived, they will tell us if my Lord designs to quit or no. Pomponne says the business will be yet accommodated, but this is Tallard's tattle.

"Let no man for the future value himself for having civilities showed him by this Court. Count Kniphuysen had on Sunday an order for the waters of Marly to play for him, Catinat was to wait on him and Breteuil, the house was open,chocolate and wine for his followers, and the same profusion of respect and tulips as the last year for my Lord Portland.

"This mighty civility is shewed to the Count for his being of Groningue, which province is not so well with the others, in so little things do these people shew themselves. The Count designs to go for England; pray remember he has been at St. Germains, and use him accordingly. I write to you as Secretary of State by way of prophecy as my Lord Arlington's picture pointed to the star.

"Puggies have communicated their compassion upon my account to their brother, and he has written a wise saucy letter in which he tells me in all circumstances he will be my friend. Lord, how mad I am with all the family! 'tis time not to detain you longer when one talks of these things." *Copy.* (XII. 214–17.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF JERSEY.

1699, May 30. [N.S.] Paris.—"Mr. Yard of the 11th tells me you are safely arrived at Windsor, and Mr. Vernon that the Seals wait for you at Kensington; we expect Monday's letters to-day, which may tell us more.

"*Swager* [brother-in-law, *i.e.*, Portland], they say, will after all take consideration in his anger and be over persuaded to vex the King longer, as they think fitting.

"I have nothing worth troubling you with from hence; little *Gouverné* is parted from this town, in order to let the little children see him for nothing in England, and unfortunate Count Roussy has lost at Marli eleven hundred and sixty *louis d'or*.

"Bridgeman has done shaking his head in this world; Southwel, who was Clerk of the Council Extraordinary, succeeds as Ordinary; Vernon's son, green and gold, remains still an Extraordinary, and there may be a Povey, for ought I know, likewise Extraordinary. However the thing is 400*l.* a year and may be a certainty when more transitory honours pass. If you think it proper, you will (I am sure) ask it; may be you may rather secure me against Puggies' pity by making me such a thing as their brother is, and I would serve as an honorary in that commission till an advantage fell.

"Do as you please, the rule of my ambition shall be what you think proper.

"You have left an odour behind you that is very agreeable to my nostrils, and people talk so of your magnificence and economy that when you are a duke, it shall be put into your patent. Pizani buys six pounds of beef per day and one leg of mutton; the Marais is all up in arms, and the butcher will not serve him. I told Montdesert that they need not have made such a noise about the dresser-boards for that (as I heard) His Excellency had no great occasion for them. Good again! Adieu! my . . . Lord, as little Dick would have said. May all your affairs go as well as I wish them. I have not one word from Lord Manchester."

Postscript.—"I had forgot to tell you that my widow was scandalized at her being married to me by all the Gazettes in Europe.* She is gone for England rude as a bear, and mad as hot weather can make her." *Copy.* (XII. 220–7.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 22[–June 1]. Whitehall.—"I have received yours of the 27th. I need not renew to you any directions about what was demanded before I came away. I know you will continue asking till you either obtain or have a flat denial, but I think you may very well press the taking up the two murderers, for it is really a shame to let a crime of that nature go so unpunished. My Lord Portland is gone to Windsor; he resolves never to take any employment, but to serve the King whenever His Majesty thinks fit; and hitherto he acts in business as usual, though I cannot think it will last long so. As yet both master and man think it will, but in my opinion—*n'en déplaise à Mr. P.*—this way of proceeding must create a coolness which will end in an entire separation. The King intends to go for Holland Friday sennight.

"My Lord Tankerville has refused to be in the Admiralty, and the King this moment is endeavouring to get my Lord Bridgewater to be at the head of that Commission.

"I think I told you before that the King was very willing you should come home. I do not find that your friend Mr. Montague is against it. I hope you will find friends enough here not to repent the doing it. Mr. Stanion is dispatching, but I believe my Lord Ambassador moves more slowly. He

* *Cf.* p. 342, *supra.*

talks a great deal, but concludes nothing. I believe I shall be a Governor, and shall pass my time this summer in Hyde Park: if you can come away before the warm weather leaves us, I will make hard shift rather than have you in town in summer: I believe John is writing below, but what God knows, for business here is little or none; if there was less, I should not be sorry, for upon my word my new employment does not elevate me, though, I believe, it vexes others.

"Pray let me know in what forwardness my looking-glass is. I thought Comte Kniphuysen had been long enough in France to be better known than I find he is. I long to have the swager [Portland] know how he has been entertained; we have dined with Prince Miremont to-day. If such things often happen I shall get the gout." (V. 61.)

The Earl of Portland to Matthew Prior.

[1699,] May 22[–June 1]. Windsor.—"J'ai bien receu, Monsieur, vos très agréables lettres, particulièrement celle du 20. Je vous crois si fort de mes amis qui je suis entièrement persuadé que tout ce que vous me dittes part du fonds de vostre cœur, ce qui m'oblige de vous répéter que je suis entièrement le vostre. Ce que je viens de faire estoit résolu longtemps devant que d'aller en France; cependant vous estes témoing de la manière dont j'ai servi le Roy; je feray de mesme tant que le bon Dieu me laissera la vie, et si l'honneur qui doit nous estre la chose la plus chère dans ce monde ici, m'a obligé de sacrifier mes intérêts et de prendre ce parti de changer ma condition, cela ne changera pas mon cœur. J'ay trop longtemps servi le Roy et sa bonne cause, et aymé l'un et l'autre, et dans l'estat où je seray, je continueray tousjours dans les mesmes sentiments, considérant que les changements qui arrivent à mes affaires sont les effects de la seule chose en quoy le monde ne change pas, car il a esté sujet a l'inconstance depuis sa création. Pourquoi prétendrois je qu'il fust constant uniquement à mon esgart? De tous ces discours que vous avez entendu dire, et des raisons ou prétextes que j'aurois pris pour me retirer, il n'en est pas un mot de vray; il ne c'est [*sic*] rien passé depuis que je vous ay veu, qui m'aye obligé de quitter; je puis dire que le Roy en est véritablement fâché, et cependant si vous pouviez sçavoir touttes mes circumstances, vous conviendriez avec moy que j'ay eu raison. C'est tout ce que je puis vous dire; je vous prie d'avoir soin de justifier le Roy, qui ne m'a pas obligé de quitter, ni disgracié, mais que ce n'est que mon propre choix, et je vous conjure de ne vous pas montrer ami de la Fortune, mais de me continuer tousjours les mesmes sentiments que vous m'avez témoigné si souvent, et soyez asseuré que partout où je seray, mesme dans la plus profonde retraitte, vous y trouveriez un ami, inutile peut-estre, mais fort sincère.

Postscript.—"Vous aurez esté surpris d'apprendre la mort de Mylord Westmorland, qui est beaucoup regretté." (V. 62.)

J. Sw[inford ?] to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 22[–June 1]. London.—"I have yours of the 27th inst. [N.S.]. Mr. Cull tells me he has delivered the box to Sir William Trumbull's housekeeper, who has sent it into the country to him. Madame Nancre's gown has likewise been given to Monsieur Payzant, as it was directed, who will take care to deliver it to Madame La Varenne. Président de Mesme's watch is with Quare, and will be done in a fortnight, when I shall send it by Mr. Stanyan, who says that he will be ready to go by that time; he asked me about your coach and horses. I told him that they are very fit for him. I suppose he will write to you about it this post. As to Mrs. Skinner's lace, it is at last found; but Allen, the messenger, has been a great blockhead, for he delivered the packet to the master of the packet-boat, and he to the postmaster at Dover, and it not being in the mail, they at the post-house here examined it very closely, and broke it open and brought it to Mr. Hopkins, to whom it was directed, with a reproof for receiving such packets under his cover. He protested that he did not know from whom it came, nor desired to know; and so it lay by him till I enquired after [it]. You will please to make an excuse to Mr. Hopkins.

"I delivered the tobacco-box to my Lord Dorset; he is very well and longs to see you.

"My Lord Portland is still at Windsor, He was summoned to the Cabinet Council last night but did not come; it is said he will soon go for Holland. He has only given up the key, which is not yet disposed of; the rest of the places he keeps as yet, good reason why. Some say that the King will endeavour to make him take the key again, which we shall soon see. The other [Albemarle] is very great and more than ever. Our Lord [Jersey] is very well in favour, and so all will go well; he told me this morning in presence of Yard to bring my escritoire to the office, and Rowley and I are to be in one room, and this is all he told me.

"I received but this afternoon the stuff for Comte Frise's coat; the silk for the waistcoat I shall have to-morrow, when I will deliver it to him with the toothpick-case. The captain was forced to tell the Custom-house officers that it was for himself.

"You will do very well to order Mr. Powys to pay the money upon the note I have from you, for your creditors begin to dun me.

"I suppose you will be sorry to hear my Lord Westmorland died last Friday night." (V. 65.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, June 3. [N.S.] Paris.—"On Monday night I caught Mons. Pomponne alone at Versailles, the Court being at Marli. I gave him M[ark] L[ynch]'s information as I had translated it into French, and written it over in my own hand. I told

him what had passed upon L[ynch]'s subject in England, that I would inform him when L[ynch] returned, who would, as I thought, apply himself to me, and that they might do with him as they thought proper. Pomponne says, having read the deposition, that it was just the same thing as L[ynch] had said already here, that he would ask the King's pleasure about him, and speak to me again about it.

"Mons. de Pomponne had not known before that your province was the south; *il en étoit fort ravi, car assurément les choses iront bien qui passeront entre les mains d'un si parfaitement honnête homme que Milord Jersey;* but for my Lord Portland he is, as you know they all are, *au désespoir.*

"I have the honour of yours of the 17th O.S. I do not forget the passport; but there was some religion in the case that hindered the King's signing or ordering the signing it on Sunday. I am promised it for to-day, and will send it as soon as I receive it.

"I have the Sal Almoniac and drops, which I distribute as your orders and your friends' vapours require; these people have imaginary ills, but my poor Lady Sandwich has a real one, which is a continual fever and so bad a one as that her life is in danger. The ablest physicians here were yesterday in consultation with Morelli about her, and as far as I hear this morning, there is more fear than hopes of her life.

"My widow is run away like Medea in *Thésée* in great violence and heat; a week's solitude (before she sees London), as her own fountains, may cool her.

"Mons. St. Maurice is much your servant; the man has more sense than all this nation. What I wrote to you last post about being clerk of the Council was, I see, pure speculation and like those houses one sometimes builds without ever removing one stone, for brother Stanyan has it, so I have only to beg your pardon for having troubled you with an impertinence. Stanyan thinks it reasonable that he should be assured of an employment at home before he condescends to relieve me. Yard thinks it madness for me to return till towards Michaelmas, because he may be Secretary of the Regents in the meantime; and Stepney has a thousand pounds a year at home for playing at one-and-thirty-bone-ace with the Electress at Berlin, and wonders what makes me think of going into England at all. This is the world, and makes one laugh; but whilst I have the honour to be *de la famille*, I am infinitely satisfied, and it is the blessing of my life that they cannot dispute the justice I have to be, more than any man alive, your servant."

Postscript.—"I hear not one word more of Lord Manchester more than what you are pleased to tell me. I think he takes no more care to come to his Embassy than hocus-pocus* to return from his. His John Trotts in green liveries not fit for them will never do here, but let him look to that. I wish His

* John Methuen, recently appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland. *Cf.*, pp. 80-1, 82, 110, *supra*, and Jersey's letter of Aug. 15[-25], 1699, p. 375, *infra*.

Excellency well and soon here. Mr. Mountagu has had mercy on me, but must have more.

"Enclosed you have one of the medals which the Jacobites are shortly to have in England. There is nothing stirring amongst them here worth sending." *Copy.* (XII. 224-7.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 25[–June 4]. Whitehall.—"I have had so little time hitherto that I have not told you how I like being here, and I will put it off a little longer till I am more at leisure. The King goes to-morrow sennight for Holland; according to the usual custom there will be some changes. The Admiralty is already settled: my Lord Bridgewater, Sir Robert Rich, Sir George Rooke, Lord Haversham and Sir David Mitchel. These five compose the commission, which before was of seven. My Lord Tankerville, I believe, will be of the Treasury under your friend. I said nothing last post of poor Lord Westmorland, but I am sure you know how much I am concerned for him. Lord Portland has been in town; he saw the French Ambassador, gave an account of his negotiation to the King, and is returned to his lodge at Windsor. I wonder I had no letter from you last post, methinks you should not plead the having nothing to say. I must mind you again of the passport that Gardie wrote to you for from Calais. *Mes complimens je vous prie à Mons. Vryberg*, and to others, if you think they deserve it. I am what I have been since first I knew you."

Postscript.—"I am mightily at a loss, Gaugain being gone to his pupil in Holland; pray give me your advice upon that matter." (V. 66.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1699, May 29[–June 8]. Whitehall.—"Your letters of the 30th of May and 3rd of June arrived yesterday. I suppose you have seen L[yn]ch by this time, and that he himself is sensible how he has been imposed on. He will give you the best description of Wall and where he may be met with, if you have a mind to renew your acquaintance. By the account he gives of him it should be the same you have seen in Holland.

"You will have an account from other hands that Mr. Stanyon is making himself ready for his journey. I wish my Lord Manchester may give you the same satisfaction in his diligence. Now I have parted with all I can to accommodate you, and have no longer the care of the province on my hands, I have no more to do but to wish you here." (V. 67.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Portland.

1699, June 10. N.S. Paris.—"The great respect which I always have had and shall always continue to have for Your

Lordship was the reason that I durst not trouble you upon a subject of which only your own prudence is the proper judge; and what I have ventured to say of it was from my wishing well to His Majesty's service in general and to Your Lordship's affairs in particular, and my desire that everything might go to your satisfaction, which I pray most heartily may be yet effected, and that is all I can possibly contribute to it.

"Mons. le Grand is at Royaumont. I make Your Lordship's compliment to Count Marsan, who is, I think, very heartily your friend.

"My Governor has very wild notions which no reasoning will drive out of a head of 60.

"I was yesterday at Court; there was no manner of news. I went afterwards to St. Cloud.

"Monsieur asked very kindly concerning you; he says, *tout cela se raccommodera;* I told him I wished with all my heart it might do so, but that I had reason to fear it from Your Lordship's last letters; my Lady Portsmouth is at St. Cloud for four days; I have given her the letter.

"I confess I had rather hear Your Lordship talk of Admirals and Chamberlains than of the dearness of grain and the scarcity of corn; one may plant and sow, my Lord, when one is good for nothing else, and I had rather have seen you cultivate men by your orders and see them promoted under your protection than know you have the best gardener and the finest fruit and flowers in Christendom." *Copy.* (XII. 238–9.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

[1699, June 1–11.] Whitehall.—"The King goes away this evening by reason of the heats, or to-morrow morning, and it is easily to imagine the hurry I am in. I go with the King to Margate; when I am come back, I will write to you more at leisure of everything. The Commission of Ireland is changed: Duke of Bolton, Earl of Berkeley and Earl Galloway are of it, what will become of you I know not; as to your concerns in that kingdom you may be sure I shall watch your interest there and everywhere that I can. Your Ambassador I find has a mind to saunter here a little longer, though I shall press his going as much as I can. The King has given him 3,000*l.* extraordinary for his equipage. The *beau* Stanion, I believe, will quickly be with you. I know not if I have acknowledged yours of the 30th of May, and 3rd and 6th of June.

"My Lord Portland is in town; that *entre deux*, as you say, I think cannot last. I am really very glad that Lady Sandwich is better. Since I am here I think her more in the right as to many things than ever; *on n'est guère poli ici, je vous assure, mais que faire!* Pray make my excuse to Mons. St. Maurice for not answering his letter; this hurry will not last always. I am faithfully yours." (V. 68.)

James Vernon to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 5 [-15]. Whitehall.—"I have your letter of the 10th inst. to acknowledge, and can't but wish that M[ark] L[ynch] may come off with being laughed at. Easiness and credulity seem to have been his greatest faults, and his intentions were rather to prevent mischief than to join in it. His hopes to make a fortune by it are certainly more pardonable than Wall's impudence, who pretends to recommend himself by making a jest of both nations." (V. 69.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 5[–15]. Whitehall.—"Stanyon is dispatched everywhere, and as I am told will set forward next Saturday. My Lord Manchester talks of doing the same the end of the month, but I scarce believe it, for he seems much embarrassed with this great affair. I have orders to press him, which I shall not fail to do. I do not wonder at his endeavouring to persuade you to stay where you are; though we both desire to have you, I doubt if it proceeds from the same motive. But to be more particular in what relates to you, I will first tell you that I cannot disagree with those of your friends who think that the employment you have gives you a title to something better than a desk to write at in the office; but on the other side I cannot think that it is for your interest to stay abroad unless you ambition an envoyship to some *petit-prince*, which you may as easily obtain from hence. But if you desire to be settled at home, I know no so sure way as the first getting hither. The King is willing you should come; and be assured that you shall be very welcome to me; I wish it may be always as much your interest as it is my inclination that we may never part. I have spoke to my Lord Berkeley to secure you your office in Ireland till the King has done something for you here; he will be your friend. The Duke of Bolton, though in the Commission, does not think of returning very quickly, nor will not be much pressed to it; I do not doubt but he may be made your friend if there is occasion for it, so that I think we have two to one of our side. I say all this because I heard at my first coming that the Justices had said that the business could not be done with one secretary, but that was perhaps in order to say that the three Justices should likewise reside. Since I am no more in the Commission, and the Duke desirous to saunter here, I suppose all this will be at an end. Now that I have told what relates to yourself, be assured that I shall be watchful in everything that relates to you. Your widow is got to her retirement very angry, I am told, at the report of her marrying; she was very ill at Dover, but the proverb will save her. I hope my Lady Sandwich is quite recovered. At Paris I did not think I was so much her humble servant as I find I really am, but one never knows a happiness till one misses it. Pray persuade her to come home, but only because it is home. I promised her to

talk of Paris to her, and I shall very faithfully keep my word with her. My Lord Portland stays here till a yacht returns from Holland for him. I am glad that France begins to be a little reasonable upon his subject; to do him justice, they cannot be too much so; as for the Maréchal your friend, let him still ask questions and be never the wiser. I always thought Brown mad, but why he is at Calais I cannot tell; I never saw him since we parted at Chantilly; Mr. Swinfort writes to him to go to Paris. The Horse* nor his man must not be too much trusted with the faithful, but of that when I have another way of writing, for I know not if Brown is still at Calais. I will write what I think you can hear from the office, but nobody can tell you how much I am yours." (V. 70.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 8[–18]. Whitehall.—"Now that the King is absent, I hope there will happen little news to send. Tranquillity is what everybody desires till Parliament, and then it cannot be expected. I will write to you by Mr. Stanyon about the faithful.

"I have heard nothing about my Lord Ambassador since the King went; you know that now appointments run on. My Lord Portland and the French Ambassador stay here for the return of the yachts to convey them to Holland. The French Ambassador has demanded one Girard Bedford, prisoner in Newgate; I am to tell him that he shall be released provided they will release Peter Peraut, who[m] we have formerly asked without success; but he has a poor wife here who moves compassion, and I should be very glad if they would allow of this exchange. If you should have forgot the case, the enclosed paper will inform you, but may be it will not be proper for you to move in it till you hear that Mons. Tallard has wrote about it.

"I do not expect to be much in the mind of people in France, but I would not have Mons. Torci forget me till he sends me the books. *Je voudrois que vous me commandies une paire de seaux d'argent de la valeur de* 1600 *ou* 1700 *francs d'un autre façon que ceux de Mons. de Breteuil, mais faits par le mème homme Balain.*

"I go this evening to lie at my lodge to be out of the dust. I am sorry I cannot have your company there." (V. 74.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, June 20. [N.S.] Paris.—"The post comes in now so regularly that one always receives Monday's letters on Saturday mornings about an hour before the post goes away again. It is so with me this moment, I receive the favour of yours of the 5–15 and am glad by it to hear that Your

* A cipher name, standing apparently for Lord Manchester. *Cf.* pp. 356-7, 362, 369, *infra.*

Lordship has received all mine. I grow very peevish with my friend's sentiments, envoyships, strange stuff, to go hern-hawking with a Duke of Zell or succeed Stepney when he is weary of soliciting for Dankleman's pardon. I will live with you, my Lord, with a desk, or without one. I lived with you at The Hague, I returned with you into England, I was to have gone with you into Ireland, I stayed for you in France, I long to come to you in England, and I will never go from thence till you send me. My obligations to you are unspeakable, and so is my zeal for your service. What would people have ? This is my case, I will print it, and shew it to mankind, and I will be happy in receiving your commands, whether they will or no. So the Horse need not neigh any longer or his man be discreet in a coffee-house (as I hear he is) upon that subject. Your speaking about my Irish affair, and endeavouring to settle it to my advantage is but an ordinary effect of your goodness to me, and what I am convinced of by ten thousand instances ; but your writing two pages to me so particularly about it is what I could not expect even from you. I dare not be eloquent upon this subject, I know you would presently say, ' O good Mr. Prior, no compliments ! ' but you cannot forbid me thinking of it as I ought to do, for all the absolute power you have over me. *Parlons d'autres choses.*

" My Lady Sandwich is out of danger, but looks thin and has so many abbés about her that to answer their fine nonsense exhausts her spirits, and will give her (literally, as the widow says) a relapse. My Lord is eclipsed for this five days past, but this is a great secret, they always say he is rid out or gone a-hunting, but we think he is gone privately to England for coin, and that, if he had not done so, his honour would have been in the same circumstances with Davenant ; 'tis incredible to think what these people have run out, or what a dog the Abbé du Bois has been to them. Madame Ficquett had her beautiful head struck off yesterday, and has done me the favour to make half my news' letter this morning. I had not the heart after all to see the execution, but those who had said no heroine ever died with such resolution. She underwent the tortures without confessing of her lover, though everybody thinks he was concerned in the thing. She was not bound upon the scaffold, she tied up her own hair, and would let the executioner touch her no otherwise than just to cut down her waistcoat, that he might separate her head with more ease. She had one stroke that cut her head about half off, and tumbled her along, and the fellow gave her seven blows when she was down. These are great particularities, my Lord, and good instances of my diligence in informing myself of what passes in my province. Farewell, my Lord, my affairs can never go wrong, whilst you continue me the favour to be absolutely your servant."
Copy. (XII. 255–8.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 12[–22]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letters of the 13th and 19th June. I have sent to inquire after Wallis, and when I know where he is, I know not what to do with him.

"The Commission for Ireland could not agree with one of the same nature for England, and Secretary at the same time. To have taken the power out of Crop's* hands would have made too great a change at present in that Government. I do not believe he will be able to hold it long if the Parliament here is not diverted by something nearer to us, but that shall not be my concern provided the whole goes well. I am glad you have writ to the little Duke and Earl Berkeley. I hope your affairs in Ireland will continue as they are till something here is found for you that you may depend on as a settlement, that Puggies may pity you no more.

"My Lord Manchester says he will certainly go the first week in July, how he will answer all your Maréchal's questions God knows. Mr. Stanyon goes to-morrow, he is to be the bearer of this. I know little more of him than his figure, and that, I suppose, will please the ladies. I think that you had not best trust him with all the faithful at first since I am to pay them, and that you can find any other way of corresponding with them. I suppose you intend to turn old Jannison over to my Lord Manchester. If you can engage him to write to you when anything of consequence occurs, well, he shall be considered for it. I think you have two more of the faithful; the best of them keep to yourself, and settle a correspondence with him either by Mr. Stanyon or any other way, if you can find one that would be better; the other faithful I think you should discover to Mr. Stanyon, when you have known him a little while and that you see he is fit to be trusted; but now that I have told my opinion, you know I leave the management of this to you, only pray take care to settle some good correspondence, that one may not be wholly ignorant of matters there. I fear that, when you are come away, we shall never hear from Comte St. Maurice, at least not anything of moment. I wish you could engage him in a correspondence, but you must have a care of what you propose to him, for he is a man of honour and I fear will not be a spy, though he is dissatisfied where he is. I hope by this time you are got rid of Lynch, for at long run we know what is to be his fate, and in the meantime it is so much money thrown away. Master is come from Cambridge to see us; I am in the greatest pain about him in the world; I am sorry he ever went thither, and I know so little what to do with him, that at present he must return thither. I have already writ to you about this business, which is a very great burden to me, and am impatient to have your advice on it. He improves so little, or rather loses his time, where he is, that I have some thoughts of sending him the latter

*A cipher name standing apparently for the Duke of Bolton. *Cf.* pp. 369, 375-6, *infra.*

end of the summer to Geneva with Mons. Girard till some better body can be found to send to him, which, I think, is not likely to be unless Lord Strange comes home, or that Gaugene can or will disengage himself. I cannot tell what to say to my picture, but that scarf, elbow-chair, *portefeuille*, and scrivener's shop is such a *mélange* that I should never have thought of. I love things more simple, and would have been contented to have leant upon a table, but do not be uneasy at what I say, for I think, as you do, that if he alter it, he will make it worse.

"I have had a letter from Breteuil, but what is worse I must answer it when I have leisure. A Secretary of State makes friends in France and enemies here, that is the difference; and was it not as you say, *il faut passer par là*, it would be impossible to endure it. I know not if France makes any return to me or not, but I own to you that I like it much better than I dare own.

"Your widow is come, and I believe has ventured her pretty person in the dust of London, for I hear that some of the women have seen her. She says my Lady Jersey is not dressed in the fashion, but 'I am right,' she cries, meaning her own person. Pray desire my Lady Sandwich to make haste over to befriend my Lady Jersey, for your widow says she has neither *mantoue* [*sic*], petticoat, *commode*, nor anything in fashion. Judge what a mortification that is for a lady so newly come from France.

"Pray thank Mons. Tamboneau for remembering us and everybody else that gives you the trouble by such an inquiry. If you find that Comte Marsan will not think it too great a freedom in me, I would send him sack by the Ambassador, but you must enquire this out with a *politesse française*." (V. 75.)

Lord Galway to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 13–23. Au Château de Dublin.—"Depuis que nous avons su que nous ne devions plus espérer de vous voir ici, et que vous étiez destiné, en quittant la France, à venir servir le Roy, dans l'office de Mylord Jersey, nous nous sommes cru obligez de pourvoir au poste, que vous deviez remplir en ce pays, et nous avons jugé que nous ne pouvions mieux jetter les yeux que sur Mr. May, qui en a si bien fait les fonctions en votre absence. Je vous assure, Monsieur, que c'est avec beaucoup de regret que je me vois privé du plaisir, et du secours, que je m'étois promis, quand nous vous aurions auprès de nous; mais j'espère au moins que nous entretiendrons correspondence." *Signed.*

Endorsed by Prior:—"My Lord Gallway's sentencing letter, acknowledged the 1–11 July, 1699." (V. 78.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, June 24. [N.S.] Paris.—"I am so afraid that these people break open my letters, and so desirous to get rid of

Mr. Brown that I take this occasion to send him away and to speak to you freely of our affairs here.

"First as to Marc Lynch; the man was with me on Saturday night, he said that the Tuesday before, which was yesterday sennight, he was at Versailles with Wall, that Wall did there speak with Mons. de Torcy above stairs in his own apartment, by the same token that Mons. de Heemskirk dined that day with Mons. de Torcy, and that Mons. de Torcy spoke with Wall just as he rose from dinner, that Wall spoke with Mons. de Pomponne that same day in the apartment below, and that Wall said to Lynch that the subject of his discourse with each of these Ministers was to concert the affair which Lynch has already declared, but that he [Lynch] knew this only from Wall's having told him so; that Wall had an audience the next morning of Mons. de Pontchartrain, and that Pontchartrain had ordered Wall to come as [on] Friday last to his house of Pontchartrain, where he might discourse matters more fully with him. Lynch added that he would go with Wall accordingly on Friday to Pontchartrain. Yesterday I had audience of the Ministers Pomponne and Torcy together, and (to show you how able a Minister I am) I first described Wall as well as I could from the detail Lynch had given me of him, desiring to know if upon any account of arrears of a ship given to him in the war, or by way of solicitation for anything relating to the marine, such a man as Wall had been with either of them; they both said that neither that day, or for some weeks before, any Englishman had had any audience from either of them, or that they could call to mind Wall or any person of his character. From hence, my Lord, it follows that there is knavery mixed with Lynch's folly, for Lynch (as I have said) told me that he saw both Pomponne and Torcy at a distance when Wall came from them, though he did not hear what Wall said to these Ministers, whereas they both perfectly say that they neither spoke to or saw Wall; and Wall speaking to three several Ministers of France upon the same subject, and which ought in itself to be the greatest secret, and Pontchartrain after this appointing Wall to come to him alone at his country-house is, as I think, a perfect chimera. I have not seen Lynch since Saturday. I have given Mons. de Torcy an account where he lodges; they will have an eye upon Wall, and Lynch will not be taken up till Wall is. Lynch, I expect, will be with me again, though I think from what has been already said one may reasonably conclude him a cheat. You will be pleased to send me your opinion as to my procedure in this affair, and your commands as to how much farther I should carry it.

"As to the faithful, here is first Bra[conier], the man that having done service during the war, was suspected here and put into the Bastille, where he remained four years; he addressed himself to my Lord Portland, and was told by him that from me he should know what the King of England

designed for him; his affair is only with one correspondent, who has promised, if anything very considerable happens, to give notice of it to Mons. Bra[conier], and for such notice given this correspondent expects a very great reward. My Lord M[ancheste]r, I think, need know nothing of this correspondence, since as to smaller matters Bra[conier] will write to me, and if an occasion of consequence should happen, he will come himself; I add to this that neither the correspondent or Bra[conier] desire to have to do with anybody else. I have given Bra[conier] fifty pounds of the last money Mr. Vernon returned me, and will give him something more before I come away, as that money may hold out, and he must have money from time to time transmitted to him; but of this I shall have time enough to speak with you when I have the honour to see you. Brocard, as we call him, is Tr . . . , an Irishman encouraged by Mr. Vernon; his pretended business is merchandise of English things, as stockings, hats, etc., under which notion he gives our friends at St. Germains an account of things in England; he is well with them, and particularly with my Lord Middleton's party. It was this man that amused us all last winter with a story of a fellow sent into England by Frank Stafford; however, though he has not been very useful, he may be so: he costs us between two and three hundred pounds per year. I think to give him two or three addresses under which he shall write to me, and since upon pretext of business he may come once or twice a year into England, I will encourage his so doing, the chit-chat of St. Germains being his forte; and if anything extraordinary should happen, he may write it and bring it to Mr. Stanyan, who may dispatch an express. I will therefore let Stanyan see the man, and tell him only that when that person brings him a letter, Stanyan should accordingly send an express; or Brocard shall enter as far with Lord Manchester as you think good, though I find him most willing to close with the method which I propose.

"Baily, who is Jo[hnsto]n, and related to the Secretary of that name, has a great mind to be at home, and has written to Mr. Alexander Johnson for that purpose; he is a parson disguised, a cunning fellow and a true *débauché*, he is upon the merit of 2 *louis* a week, and picks up what they are doing at St. Germains; for the time he will be here, I will turn him over to Stanyan if you think good.

"Jannisson as to his ordinary correspondence of who goes and who comes, may he not be given over to Stanyan and paid by my Lord Manchester, as they may agree the matter? But when he knows anything of more consequence I have ordered him to write it, under cover of some names I will give him, to me.

"My widow Langlois and her two daughters Stanyan may have; I think the old woman is a cunning jade as lives, and will pump him in his turn if he is not upon his guard; if he

visits her, as he should do, he may know something of most of the rogues and priests about Paris that have any dealings at St. Germains. One of the daughters will jilt him to death if he is very civil and says fine things to her, but if he claps one hand upon her mouth and t'other up her coats, she will eat him *bourreau* and lay with him (as I have heard say), but this is his concern.

"The poor people of St. Germains, especially the Protestants amongst them, had rather venture hanging for coming home than be sure of starving for staying there. Amongst these some have applied themselves to me: the suspended Bishop of Galway in Scotland, who has a mind to try if in Ireland he could get bread (he is a scholar, has the reputation of an honest man, and, I think, is neither designing or capable of doing harm); Menize, a scholar and a man that (as you see) does not want, since he would take the oaths; there is another scholar, one Hamilton, in the same condition. I can only say in this case that if these men had the King's mercy, he would be better beloved at St. Germains than King James is; I am too young a politician to say *pour* or *contre*, nor would I pretend to intercede with you in a matter of this nature. I will only say that, if any of these people did come, home, I would have them own the kindness to you, because I would have everybody love you.

"I shall obey the directions which you give me in yours of the 8th as to Gerrard Bedford to be returned for Peter Perauld, who is very happy to find a case so parallel to his own, for yesterday I asked Mons. de Torcy for an answer to the memorial you gave in about some galley-slaves, and to which I had added some others, which came to my knowledge since your going, and Torcy told me there was no answer, and that we had asked for a great many, but Adams told me plainly by way of an *entre nous* that they would give up no more galley-slaves, and that it would be in vain for my Lord Manchester to give in any memorials upon that subject.

"I spoke to Mons. de Torcy concerning the two Irishmen suspected to be companions in the murder and piracy at St. Malo. He said he had already spoken to Mons. Pontchartrain to give orders for their arrest, but did not know if those orders had been executed. He took a note of it, that he might remember to speak again. I do not see that he is much in haste about this arrest, and I think it is pretty indifferent to Mr. Leward if the thing be taken notice of or no, provided the cargo be retrieved. You will see by the man's letter to me that he complained, as most English people do, without a cause. I hear nothing from my Lord Manchester, and nobody asks if he is to come or no. As to private matters I have found an original of the Duchess of Burgundy of Lar[g]ilières; 'tis very like her. I have obliged him to let me have a copy of his own drawing, and it will accordingly be done. The three boys have not been drawn these two

days ; Troye did them last ; they are not very like, or if they ever were, the children are so changed that they are not so now. If you would have copies taken of them however, you shall be obeyed. The King and the Dauphin you remember you will have from Rigault, who does not much advance your portraits.

" I will bespeak the *seaus* ; those for the Baron will be done in a fortnight ; about that time it will be convenient (if you please) to think of money for the *glace* for Rigault, and for the other commissions which you have given or may give me." *Copy.* (XII. 263–72.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 15[–25]. Whitehall.—" I wrote last post to you by the *Beau* [Stanyan]. Pray take care what you say to him about your coming back. I find the Horse and his man would fain continue to keep you there till the audience is over, and I think they have more a mind to do it, because you have no mind to stay, but it is best to be easy in this matter and say nothing, and I think it will not be in their power to keep you longer than was first intended. I suppose Mr. Blathwayt will not venture to send you an order to stay without first acquainting me with it. You see I might have spared this letter by what is in it, but I had a mind to acknowledge yours of the 20th and to tell you that I am yours." (V. 80.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 19[–29]. Whitehall.—" I think as to the affair of L[ynch] you are to let the French Ministers act in it as they think fit, taking always care that the cheat that was designed for us may be punished as well as that which was designed to their prejudice.

" As for the faithful, I think what I wrote by the *Beau* to be almost your sense in that matter, so I need say no more than to advise you to keep the most useful to yourself, and turn the other over to my Lord Ambassador.

" I can say nothing of the Bishop nor of others in his circumstances, till I have a little considered of it.

" You may speak about Peter Perault, and Gerard Bedford, to the Ministers, for I have now proposed the change to the French Ambassador.

" I like very well to have a copy of the Duchess of Burgundy's picture, since it is like, and since those of the boys are not like I do not desire to have them. I will take care to send you money for the things I have writ for. Pray tell Mons. Rygault that the six weeks are near being expired. Mons. de Vilat, a French officer, has desired me to speak to you to bring him over between four and five hundred *louis d'or* in specie, which I think you will not refuse.

"The Comtesse de Maillé has writ to me for a pass to come into England. Pray let her know that a pass from me will signify nothing; if she intends to come into England, she must get a license from the King.

"I know Mr. Yard sends you the news of the town, though I cannot help telling you that poor Madame Mazarine is dying, if not dead. Your widow did us the honour of a visit this afternoon at the lodge; she is not likely to die, I assure you. She has had a brother dead since she has been here, the town says he has left her money. She was dressed all in white, a mourning becoming her age and person and very proper for the season.

"By this time the Irish Parliament is dissolved without calling another, so that for some time there will need neither of justices nor secretaries.

"The enclosed papers will inform you of the reason of the delays of the letters to Paris; you must speak to Mons. Pomponne about it, and desire that a courier may be always ready to bring away the letters as soon as they arrive at Calais (according to the Article), and that they may not lie at Calais till the ordinary post goes, which sometimes occasions a delay of twenty-three hours, if the packet comes in just after the post is gone, for then the letters stay till that post goes the next day." (V. 81.)

The Postmasters-General (R. Cotton and Tho. Frankland) to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, June 19[-29]. General Post Office, London.—"We have enquired into the cause of the irregular delay of the English mail between Calais and Paris. It proceeds from the methods of conveying it; for they send it by the ordinary Calais post, which goes out about three in the afternoon every day, so that, if the mail be landed at four the day before, it may lie twenty hours before it is despatched. This is directly contrary to the obligation of the second article of the Post Office Treaty concluded in June last between the two Offices of England and France."

"Upon several occasions we have applied for redress to Mons. Léon Pajot who signed the treaty; but he having for these many months affected an obstinate silence, we now think it proper to address ourselves to Your Lordship and to desire Your Lordship to write to His Majesty's Minister at Paris to insist by a memorial to Mons. de Pomponne (with whom as Postmaster-General the treaty was made and ratified by him) that the delay of the mails may be remedied."

"We for our parts have exactly complied with our obligation in this particular; for whensoever the French mail arrives at Dover, it is immediately horsed and carried for London."

Copy endorsed by Prior :—"A Mem[orial] drawn upon this letter and given in to Mons. Pomponne, July 3–13, 1699." (V. 82.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 22[–July 2]. Whitehall.—"I have received yours of the 27th. I find that Mr. Stanyan was not then arrived, though he said he would be as soon as the post. I am glad to hear that Mr. Montague has been as kind to you as you desired, but I do not know why you say he has reason to be angry at your coming home, for I should be sorry to have you do anything that reasonably could be found fault with. I do not hear that my Lord Manchester is in such forwardness to be able to go so soon as he says.

"If what Mons. Adams writes you had been sooner put in execution, neither of those rogues would have escaped. I send you back his letter not knowing but it may be of more use to you than me. Pray take care of your eyes, for I shall have use of them, though it is but to walk about.

"I go to-morrow to see a place near Tunbridge called Summer Hill; I believe I shall buy it; you see what trifles I write; but here is nothing else; I wish it may continue so, though I am always put to it to know what to write to you. My compliments to all my friends from Comte Marsan to Tamboneau; they are a good sort of people to live with, though the swager likes none of them nor their way. I suppose they will bear it if he retires in earnest. It is no secret that Lord Sandwich is here, though I have met with none that has seen him. John lies in town, because of the office, but with whom you may guess. Kat' lies at Hyde Park. In talking just now with Mr. Montague about you, for I have seen him at Council since my letter was begun, he said he hoped he should see you here by the latter end of July; that being, you need not trouble yourself what his son-in-law says. Madam Mazarine died this morning at eight o'clock, after giving some hopes of her recovery these two or three last days. It is what we all must do, the later the better." (V. 83.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 26[–July 6]. Whitehall.—"I have received yours of July the 1st. I am glad the *Beau* is come to you. I find you learn little from him; I fear he is mistaken even in my Lord Manchester's journey, and that it will be the end of next month before he gets to Paris at soonest. I believe it is necessary you should have some letter of revocation, and it shall be taken care of. It will be most civil to my Lord Manchester to send that letter by him. I reckon that it will be necessary that you should stay a fortnight after my Lord's arrival to carry him to his private audience, and to show him the way to Versailles. I am not against your coming home by the way of Holland, since you have a mind to it, and that you say it shall make so little difference in your return hither; if you continue in the same mind, let me know some time before you come away, that I may acquaint the King with it, who, I suppose, will not be against it.

"Pray take care how you enter into matter with the Comte, for it is a very nice matter and better not attempted than ill done. Master is returned to the College, I am in the same uncertainty I was about him; I wish you had an answer from your two friends on this subject, but I scarce expect that Gaugain should disengage himself.

"I hope that what is now in hand for me at Paris will be done before you come away, for I shall not care to leave the charge of them to any other. Pray make Madame de Croissy some compliments from me when she sees the glass.

"I suppose Clément, the library-keeper, must have something like a present for the stamps, which you may do at your discretion. I will send you money time enough for everything.

"I know not what it is, but I cannot bear Mr. Stepney any ill will; for his ill nature I pity him.

"I hope Mr. Stanyan will be satisfied that you thank him from me for his letter without any other answer. Pray do as much or more to Mr. Davenant for his civil letter to me." (V. 84.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, June 29[–July 9]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of July the 4th. I am very glad to hear you are so fairly rid of Lynch without his knowing you were in a plot against him. I think you did very well to tell Mons. Pomponne that His Majesty would leave him to the justice of that place, neither do I believe that you will receive any orders to the contrary. I suppose they will tell you from time to time how they proceed against the parties. On your side, pray observe if Wall is used as a criminal, or as one who discovered and is only clapped up to blind others.

"I had yesterday a visit from your Ambassador whilst I was in my retreat at the Lodge. The old Maréchal never asked so many questions; in all his discourse I could not find when he intends to be with you. I told him that it might happen that he would not have his private audience before the Court went to Fontainebleau, if he was not at Paris at least a fortnight before it removed thither. I could not bring him to fix any time; the appointments now run on, and I believe the latter end of the next month is the soonest that he thinks of going from hence.

"Brown tells me that he is sure that Arnold, who was in prison at Calais, is removed to the Bastille. I wish you could find out if it is so, and what reason is given for the keeping him a prisoner. I am told that the French will not suffer any English to stay above eight days in any of their seaports, for fear we should have any correspondence that gave us an account of the trade that the French drive with the English for wool. I do not see how they can banish anybody, unless there is some crime laid to their charge. This method

is not friendly, I would have you touch upon it to Mons. Torcy to hear what he says to it, but not by way of a formal complaint, because I am not very sure it is true in every place, but I really believe it is practised in all ports over against Kent and Sussex.

"I hope Mr. Hill has sent you a direction to send his letters to him whilst he is at Turin." (V. 85.)

JAMES VERNON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, June 29[–July 9]. Whitehall.—"I have received this day your letter of the 4th of July [N.S.]. I think it is very fair that Wall should be taken up as well as Lynch, and I hope he will be as strictly examined, that the bottom of this roguery may be brought out; I believe they will communicate to you what account he shall give of this intrigue. I wish you were allowed to send him cross interrogatories, and that he be obliged to answer them, for then perhaps the banter would appear.

"I have taken into my office one M. de Vrigny, a fellow student of my son's at Utrecht. He expects some papers that are of concern to him from some of his relations. If they are brought to you, I desire you will receive them and send them hither by the first safe conveyance." (V. 86.)

[The EARL OF JERSEY] to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, July 3[–13]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letter of the 8th; by this time you know if by mistake the French letters were sent to Ostend, I have not seen yet any of our postmasters to inquire here if it was so.

"You say nothing if your successor likes Versailles, I guess how he will be liked. My Lord Manchester never comes to inquire after his instructions.

"Mons. Tourtone has orders to let you have what money you want to pay for the commissions I have troubled you with; you must draw bills upon me for the money you take at double usance, to make the payment more easy to me.

"It was dulness in me not to understand the word *reason* and not any design to criticise.

"I hope Summer Hill will be bought, and whatever it affords is at your service; if you get hither before the fine weather is gone, I will punish you with a retreat thither for a day or two.

"I wish you could send me the model upon paper of a little size dish for porridge, I think it is like a little basin." (V. 87.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF PORTLAND.

1699, July 13. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have dared to speak so much to you in relation to a thing infinitely above me, and for which I now see no remedy, that I will only trouble Your Lordship at present upon the subject to tell you that I wish

all things should succeed as you would have them, and that you are safe arrived in Holland, where I hope in my way home to assure you of the sense I have of your favour to me. I wait my Lord Manchester's coming, and I believe may do so this month yet; after which I am ready to put off these plumes with which I flutter about Paris, and to return home to labour under the protection of my good friend and patron, my Lord Jersey, in an employment of less noise and figure, and though my inclination did not oblige me to this choice, the hard usage which my Lord Gallway threatens me with would force me to it, for though I am yet actually in France, and by the King's order intimated to the Lords Justices upon my coming abroad that my pretences should be safe in Ireland, my Lord Gallway writes me word that they have thought fit to dispose of the secretaryship to Mr. May, who is second secretary, and acted as deputy from me in the employment of first secretary as long as His Majesty was pleased to dispense with my service. His Majesty does as yet most certainly dispense with it, for I am where his orders retain me, and where Your Lordship's goodness and choice brought me, that is, at Paris; my Lord Gallway is but one of the three governors, and the three conjointly have not the power of making the secretary, but only of recommending him to His Majesty, who chooses him, and who dispenses with that service as with any other as his pleasure is. Mr. Poultney is Clerk of the Council in Ireland, yet has lived constantly since my Lord Rumney's time in England. Mr. Stepney, Mr. Blathwayt (and almost everybody else that has any employ) are excused from the functions of it when His Majesty's service and orders retain them in a foreign country: yet I alone am destined by my Lord Gallway to be a sacrifice that Mr. May may be first secretary and Mr. Bouhereau (who is my Lord Gallway's countryman and secretary) may be made second secretary of the kingdom.

"My Lord Gallway has neither by word or warning said once that this storm was coming, but it is easy to know that he did not think good to endeavour to undo what my Lord Portland thought good to do, whilst my Lord Portland was in the Court; but immediately upon my Lord Portland's retiring, down with Mr. Prior; so when the pillar is removed the ivy that depended upon it falls. I write this very plain, but I know to whom I write it. I know not if His Majesty has yet heard of this thing, in which my Lord Gallway so absolutely determines, but I believe I can intercede with Your Lordship (for all what my Lord Gallway thinks to the contrary), that this storm may not fall upon me till I come into England, and may have the liberty to plead my own cause, and that therefore till then the thing may be upon the foot it now is, Mr. May acting as my deputy; and this can be no prejudice to His Majesty's service, unless it can be imagined that Mr. May has more sense when he acts for himself,

and without my deputation than when he acts with it; or else, if my Lord Gallway will actually have any other person for first secretary, Mr. May or that other may be obliged out of the profits of the office to allow me some compensation for the validity of my pretensions till His Majesty shall be pleased to order otherwise, in which case there will remain a fair income for Mr. May, or any other, and His Majesty's business will be as well done as if his poor secretary at Paris were sacrificed to the humour and arbitrary will of my Lord Gallway. I throw myself wholly upon His Majesty's goodness and stand wholly to his decision; he is too just to let me lose, and I am too happy if he pleases to take my cause in hand. I will only add to Your Lordship that I have endeavoured to live in France as becomes the character with which I am honoured, which without Ireland I could not have done, notwithstanding His Majesty's extraordinary goodness to me by Your Lordship's intercession. No man can wish better to another's affairs than I do to those of Your Lordship, and in what place or circumstances soever you are, no man living is more devoted to your service." *Copy.* (XII. 304–7.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF JERSEY.

1699, July 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"One of my letters is to the Secretary of State, the other is to my Lord Jersey. No examinations have as yet been taken of W[all] and L[ynch]; they are both used alike as yet in everything. Arnaud* is, I believe, in the same case with the two I mention, at least there is an Englishman there, and according to the best description I can hear made of him it appears to me to be the same. I shall endeavour to know more, but the reason why a man is put in prison here is, Your Lordship knows, very difficult to find. I think there are fifty stories told, and as many reasons given about the business of W[all] and L[ynch]; few of them wholly false and not one of them perfectly true.

"I have forwarded your letter to Mr. Hill at Lyons according to a direction he sent me. I touched upon the English not having leave in the French sea-ports longer than eight or ten days as of what I had heard from people that came from Calais and Bo[u]logne. Mons. de Torcy said at first that the King did not hinder strangers landing and staying in their ports to traffic, but would not have them establish and live there. I went on to tell him by little and little that by the Articles of Peace, they might live and inhabit, and that the time of their stay was not limited by any number of days, and that this prohibition was particular to the English. At last he seemed to intimate as if we got off the *réfugiés*, and that therefore their King would not let us be near the coasts, but he did not much insist upon this reason, but gave me

* *Cf.* p. 370, *infra.*

one much better, which was plainly that the King of France would have it so, which is an admirable reason for a General to give at the head of an army in time of war, but a very bad one for a Secretary of State in peace.

"As to the wool, the Owlers come to Calais as regularly as the letters, and meet all encouragement at their arrival there.

"Adams gave me a slyer reason for this order against the English staying in the French sea-ports, as if it were done upon our asking it, and to take off all pretext off the French encouraging what should look like an invasion, a descent or correspondence held by the Jacobites from these places with their friends in England. Your Lordship sees the invalidity of this reason, and knows that we never desired any such complaisance from this Court; however, I took it as current coin, that he might think what I asked was from myself, and not by command.

"I give Your Lordship many thanks for granting me leave to return by way of Holland. Your successor makes so little haste that the King may be in England before His Excellency arrives in France, but the appointments run on, and consequently the Embassy is performed. I have ventured to write to Loo that my complaints may prevent Crop's representations. I think I was right in so doing. I thank God I can hate and love, and the objects of my different passions are the Earls of Gallway and Jersey. I wish I may vex the one as heartily as I shall always endeavour to obey the other." *Copy.* (XII. 310–12.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, July 6[–16].—"I have yours of the 11–1. Crop, is (as the swager says upon other occasions) impertinent; I will write about you to-morrow to my Lord Albemarle. The only thing to be done in this business is to keep it off for some time. My Lord Berkeley resents Crop's usage to him (being absent) in this affair; when he gets into Ireland he will certainly serve you. What you have writ to Lord Gallway is right, and I think he cannot justify putting you out but with the King's leave, which, I hope, he will never have till something else is got for you. Pray do what you can for Perault, for his wife makes one's heart ache when I see her.

"Your poetry of St. Germains is the devil; pray make my compliments to both courtiers and men of the robe that remember me.

"Madame Maillé will do very well for the Horse.

"Pray inquire if the Duchess de la Force, *réfugiée* here, is not allowed something from her son by the King's order; Tamboneau can tell you.

"You once told me of a correspondence which Madame le Cocque kept, which I have forgot and would willingly know.

"The Parliament will be prorogued to the 24th of August. The Council has sat late and I am a little in haste." (V. 88.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, July 18. [N.S.] Paris.—"The 1115 [captain] of the 630 [seamen], the 1228 and other 1115s [captains] that will shortly 362 [put] out from 1127 [Calais] have received 1162 [orders] to 1232 [deliver] any 1453 [English] 630 [seamen] 221 833 414 221 [to parties of horse] who shall 1054 [carry] them to 409 404 167 [the Bastille]: this I am well assured of.

"The 1237 [French] will certainly 1104 [aid] the 1402 [Spaniards] in opposition to what the 1069 [Scotch] pretend to do in 1144 [Darien]. I know not how far we pretend to be concerned in that affair; they say at Court the 1237 [French] 1540 [Ambassador] in 1454 [England] had given you to understand 1255s [the French King's] intentions upon that subject.*

"Mons. de Pomponne is at Marli and was not at Paris yesterday according to his word; so I have not his answer in relation to the post.

"I have seen the copy of an order from Your Lordship to me concerning Cowper. The original the man has not yet received. I must begin again in his case by giving in a new memorial to signify our dissatisfaction of the liquidations made by his judges; and that is all I shall do, I suppose, in it during my ministry, I wish my Lord Manchester may have better success in this affair than at present I can imagine he will have." *Copy.* (XII. 314.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, July 10[–20]. Whitehall.—"It is to be wished that the Spaniard could beat out the Scotch at Darien, for that colony gives a good deal of trouble here; the English are apprehensive that the Scotch settling in those parts (with the advantages granted them by Act of Parliament) will be a prejudice to trade here. Many applications have been made to the King about it; His Majesty was not privy to the design, and is resolved not to protect it; orders are sent to all the governors in those parts not to have any correspondence with the Scotch. This is done both in regard to the trade of England and to some Treaties made with Spain relating to America; so that in your discourse, though without affectation, you are always to make this interest of the Scotch company to have no relation to England, and what the King does not intend to protect; His Majesty has already signified the same to the Court of Spain. The forbidding our English to stay in their seaports above eight or ten days is a very odd proceeding; and so is the putting English up in the Bastille without giving any account; it is certain that Arnold† is there, and much to my sorrow his wife here with two children;

*The interpretation of the cipher is perforce conjectural. *Cf.* Jersey's letter, *infra*, and Luttrell as cited.

† *Cf.* Luttrell, *Brief Relation of State Affairs*, iv. 534, 543-4, 547.

I can give you no other directions in these matters than I have already.

"I hear that my Lord Middleton's lady is gone over to you under the name of Morice.

"When I wrote to my Lord Albemarle about your Irish affair, I did suppose you had done it before. I am glad to hear I was not mistaken.

"My Lord Manchester has been with me this afternoon, and I find that he will certainly go from hence the latter end of the next week; he will go post from Calais for fear he should not see the King before he goes to Fontainebleau.

"I will send you a letter by my Lord Manchester for Mons. Torcy; I will take that occasion to thank him for my books; I am glad they are fine; pray give my silver watch to Clément. Madame Croisy has writ over that she has heard nothing of you nor my glass. I suppose you have seen her by this time; pray leave none of my things to do when you are come away." (V. 90.)

Lord Galway to Matthew Prior.

1699, July 11[–21]. Au Château de Dublin.—"J'ai été fort surpris, en recevant votre lettre du 1er de ce mois. Nous n'avons jamais conté que Mr. May fut votre député. Je croy que l'employ de Secrétaire n'a jamais été exercé par député, et il me paroît de nature à ne pouvoir pas l'être. Mr. May étoit notre second secrétaire, pendant que vous étiez le premier; et exerçoit, pendant votre absence, pour les deux charges, attendant toujours que le service du Roy vous permettroit de quiter la France et de venir ici, jusques à ce que je reçus une lettre de Mylord Albemarle, du 29 Avril passé, dont voicy les propres mots—

'La charge de Secrétaire des Lords Justices va être vacante par l'employ que l'on destine à Mr. Prior dans l'office de Mylord Jersey.'

"Nous avions promis, depuis longtems, à Mr. May, qu'il aurait ce poste dès que vous seriez pourvu. Cependant comme nous vous avions donné cette place, après que Mylord Sunderland nous avoit dit que Sa Majeste seroit satisfaite de ce choix, nous avons différé l'exécution de notre promesse à Mr. May, jusques à ce que Mylord Duc de Bolton en eût parlé luy-même au Roy, qui luy dit qu'il approuvoit notre résolution. Sur l'avis qu'il m'en donna, je crus que je devois vous en avertir. Je suis bien fâché que nous n'ayons jamais profité de votre présence dans ce royaume, et que nous n'ayons plus l'espérance de vous avoir. Ce qui m'en console, c'est que ce n'est que pour vous mettre dans un beaucoup meilleur poste, dans lequel nous aurons une perpétuelle relation avec vous. Je ne croy pas que vous ayez jamais cru pouvoir garder l'un et l'autre. Cela ne me paroît pas practicable, et ne convient point du tout au service du Roy, et par conséquent

ne nous peut pas convenir. Je vous prie de n'y pas penser." *Signed.* (V. 92.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, July 13[–23]. Whitehall.—"I have received yours of the 8th-18th. I hope the first part of it is nothing but what is always done upon the like occasion.

"The French Ambassador never spoke to me of that business, the Court there says he did.

"When Mons. Pomponne speaks to you about the business of the letters, pray let him know that our letters for Italy are sometimes stopped at Lyons three or four days, and by the Treaty the French are obliged to forward those letters with all dispatch.

"I think Cowper has been ill advised in his business; I wish my Lord Manchester may have success in it, though I had not.

"You must act in the business of W[all] and L[ynch] as you have begun, and as I have writ to you already.

"I believe the King will speak to the French Ambassador upon the business of the English not being permitted to make any stay in the French ports.

"Licences cannot be got for those people you mentioned in yours of the 24th past.

"You have leave to go to Loo if you please. You may make it an excuse to leave my Lord Manchester soon after his private audience.

"I hear my Lord Sandwich is gone back; I hope it is to fetch my Lady.

"One Colonel Wakeline with ten horses is lately gone over; you will have an eye upon him.

"I find I am not like to have my *glace* by the time you leave Paris, which is a very great disappointment to me, for I depended on it to adorn my house in the winter; besides, when you are come away, nobody will be there to take care of it that I care to trust; and I fear I shall find another inconvenience in the not having it, for I have already entered it into the Customs House as part of my goods left to come with you, and if it does not come till long after, I shall pay custom for it as a new *glace* out of France, which will be half the value of it; pray intercede with Madame de Croisy to give all the dispatch possible in this trifling affair, for I had almost as willingly be without the glass as not have it against the winter. I say nothing of the other things, for I think there is no question but they will be done at the time you come; my *seaux* must pass for your plate that has been used, or else, I believe, they must pay custom both coming out of France and entering here.

"I depend on the Office and John to send you the common news of the town, pray let me know how they perform.

Postscript.—"If you don't come quickly away, Boileau and that flattering country will spoil you." (*V.* 93.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, July 14–24. Loo.—"I am favoured with yours of the 17th inst. and enclosed occurrences, not doubting but you and your successors will do all that you can in the business recommended to you. I am now expecting an answer to my letter concerning the Irishmen, that is, that you would give me the best account you can from your enquiries of their life and conversation while in the service of France, that their intentions may be the better judged of here." *Signed.* (V. 96.)

The EARL OF ALBEMARLE to [MATTHEW PRIOR].

1699, July 27. [N.S.] Loo.—"Je suis tousjours contant quand je me puis flatter d'avoir quelque part dans vostre souvenir, et puis que vous m'en asseures, j'ai lieu de vous en remercier; et je vous asseure, Monsieur, que vous serez receu à bras ouvert, ce sera alors que nous nous expliquerons ensemble sur toute chose. Le Roy vous accorde la permission de passer par icy a vostre retour de Paris, ce qui m'en donnera l'occasion. Ainsy j'espère que le grand Manchester arrivera bientost afin que vostre départ soit d'autant plutost. Croyes moi toujours avec passion de tout mon cœur, vostre etc. (V. 98.)

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, July 21–31. Dieren.—"I have laid the contents of the 14–24 inst. before the King, who has thereupon ordered enquiry to be made after O'Bryan at Brussels; and I am further to desire from you an exact description of his person, that he may be the better found out.

"You may chance to meet Mr. Stepney at Loo as well as other good company of your best friends." (V. 97.)

[The EARL OF JERSEY] to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, July 24[–August 3]. Whitehall.—"I have yours of the 19–29th. Mons. de Pomponne's answer to our Postmaster's complaint is sent to them; I do not know what they will say to it, but I believe there is nothing more to be done in this business but to make Pajott careful, as he has been since the complaint. On my account I do not expect Mons. de Torci should dispatch anything, but methinks it should be every minister's care and desire to make an end of business when they can; I suppose what fragments my Lord Manchester finds will remain so to his successor.

"I thought the merchandises seized by du Bart in the Dantzic ships were already granted to our merchants, though not delivered, but I find the French can easier undo than do. I suppose the merchants, when I see them to tell them their doom, will still have something to reply.

"I believe they will mention no more the business of Girard Bedford since nothing can be done but by releasing of Perault; unless the interested in the affair of Captain Mansell, as you have proposed, will prosecute his murderers, I do not expect justice to be done otherwise. My Lord Manchester has orders to speak about Arnold. If those proclamation men are gone towards Flanders, as you say, it will not be hard to meet with them.

"When you write those things to Mr. Blathwayt, I suppose you write them at the same time to my Lord Albemarle, who is immediately about the King. If you could get the names of those Scotch subscribers, it would be of use. I am glad to know the names of those that have the management of the money for the poor here, though I know not what to do with them—as you say here is rare doings, but how to help it! By this time I may wish you joy of my Lord Manchester's arrival. Joly is gone his gentleman of the horse, and has married Tom's cousin; pray be kind to her, and do not call her Sarah but Mrs. Joly. You were in the wrong not to let me know that you had writ Mr. Montague word of your journey to Holland, for I made it a secret till I had the King's leave for your going thither; whatever conjecture you make of what I said to you lately about your journey pray keep it to yourself." (V. 95.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1699, August 7. [N.S.] Dieren.—"We should be glad you could send us some proof of FitzGerald's being lately at St. Germains—I mean this Henry FitzGerald, for that he avers the contrary. Pray assure His Excellency the Earl of Manchester of my most humble respects, and Mr. Stanian of my service." (V. 101.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1699, August 4–14. Loo.—"I should hardly take this way of troubling you after the receipt of your last favours of the 3rd and 7th instant, by which I understand we shall so soon have your good company here, were it not to let you know that Mr. Marmaude, Mr. Hill's secretary at Brussels, is indeed in pursuit of O'Bryan mentioned by you, but without success, since he goes by another name, and that there is no description of his person; so that, as I have already desired you to get such a description, it is now become necessary that you furnish Mr. Marmaude with it as soon as possible, whether this find you at Brussels or otherwise." (V. 99.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, August 15[–25]. Whitehall.—"I have received your letters of the 15th and 19th instant from Paris. I did not write to you these two last posts, supposing you on your

journey. This, I hope, will meet you at Loo. Till we meet I will say nothing to you of France, only that the Ambassador does not *voir jour*, and that you guess right as to the other *jours* we have lately mentioned.

" Mr. Blathwayt writes me word that by order of His Majesty he was writ to put the ' holx* ' in Ireland ; you will say that it is not for your sake that I am glad of it, but vain to have got the better of monarchical Crop."

Postscript.—" Since I wrote the other side, I have received your letter of the 22nd from Paris : had I thought you would have stayed there so long, I should have writ to you the last posts, but now everything that I could say must be deferred till we meet." (V. 102.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, August 22[–Sept 1]. Whitehall.—" I have received your letter of the 28th, your farewell from Paris. I cannot judge when you will be at Loo, not knowing how much your curiosity will make you saunter about Flanders, but I write this in hopes it will not be long before it meets with you. I have lately had a letter from Crop, who, I find, is not satisfied with what I wrote to him by the King's order in your affair ; he intends to write to His Majesty about it, and by that means hopes to gain his point. This arbitrary spark I believe will be so troublesome in this business that the King will be forced to do something for you in England, by way of accommodation ; if that happens you are more obliged to Crop than he intends. If you like of it, I shall do what I can to promote such an accommodation when I see you at Loo ; for now I may tell you that there you may expect me, and I hope it will not be long before we meet ; till then I defer a thousand things." (V. 103.)

Extract of a letter from Lord Galway to Mr. Blathwayt.

1699, August 24[–Sept. 3]. Dublin.—" Nous avons reçu les ordres du Roi par votre lettre du 8^{ième} de ce mois à l'esgard de Mons. Prior. Nous avions donné la place de notre premier Secrétaire à Mons. May avant que le Duc de Bolton partit d'ici ; nous n'avons point nommé de second ; il y a quelques temps que my Lord Jersey me fit savoir que le Roi voulait que Mons. Prior fût notre premier secrétaire, jusqu'à ce qu'il fût mieux pourvu. Je me suis donné l'honneur d'écrire au Roi pour lui représenter ce que je crois de son service et de notre droit dans cette affaire. Si Sa Majesté nous commande après cela d'ôter Mons. May et d'y remettre Mons. Prior, nous savons que notre devoir est d'obéir à Sa Majesté, mais nous attendrons encore une fois ses ordres." (V. 113.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 5[–15]. Whitehall.—" I have yours of the 8th and 11th. I have not time to answer them so particularly

* *Cf.* Prior's letter of June 3. N.S. 1699, *postscript, p.* 351, *supra.*

as I could wish. I find you are mightily pleased, and who would not be so with so gracious an audience, I wish it may last. Poor Stepney! but to be more serious I am getting ready to depart as soon as the orders come, and you may expect me at Rotterdam the first fair wind after; I long to be on the other side, for I have a thousand things to say, I hope for all our goods.

"I send you a paper given me by the Spanish Secretary; the same has been given to all the Justices, I think it is complaining to the nation of what His Majesty is doing; I would not have you show the paper, unless the Honourable shows that which is sent him for the King. I have had a letter from Lord Berkeley, and I find Crop will not be quiet, but you will know more of that where you are. Farewell, I long for the arrival of the courier from Vienna." (V. 104.)

[The Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 12[–22]. Whitehall.—"I have yours of the 15th and 18th, but no orders yet for my voyage, which perhaps may not be, since it depends on the resolutions of the Court of Vienna: if orders should come, I scarce could get to The Hague before the time they say here the King will be there, unless the wind is very fair. I thank you for your care about a lodging for me; I believe it is more than those will have that send for me, or else sure I shall be lodged in the old court, if old Romney has not all the room. I think I told you that Crop was not quiet, but I never knew impertinence of that kind resented as it ought to be. In expectation of seeing you, I cannot settle to write to you as otherwise I should. If you do not see me, you will be troubled with the care of some commissions that I have already writ about. The *seaux* are very fine, but what is not so that comes from thence?"

Postscript.—"I believe I have eight mares at The Hague, and I desire you to speak to Mr. Ireton to get them over with the King's equipage. If I do not come myself, I will send a couple of servants to take care of them." (V. 105.)

H. May to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 12[–22]. Dublin Castle.—"I have the favour of yours of the 8th inst., N.S., and do according to your desire send you enclosed [*missing*] a monthly account of the fees from the time we accounted last to the end of April, about which time the Duke of Bolton and my Lord Galway were pleased to declare me their first secretary, as I think I acquainted you in my last, and I have by this post sent Mr. Powis a bill for two-thirds of those fees.

"If it shall be thought fit to turn me out of that place, I shall always receive the commands of my superiors with the respect and submission that is due, but for the time their Excellencies have declared the employment to be mine, and

that I remain in it, I cannot for my life think myself accountable to anybody but them. I am sorry we happen to judge so very differently, and am, etc." (V. 106.)

The Earl of Berkeley to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 14[–24]. Dublin.—"I have received yours from Loo, which I did not answer by the first opportunity because I have written fully of the matter to my Lord Jersey, which, I do not question, will be communicated to you. I am very sorry that Lord Galway and you differ so widely in this business, for he takes it upon a foot which makes me wholly incapable of doing you any service in it; for he says that Mr. May was put in possession of the first secretary's place before I came into Ireland by the Duke of Bolton and himself, and this by the King's order by my Lord Albemarle, who writ that they might dispose of the first secretary's place by reason you were provided for in my Lord Jersey's office. I suppose the Duke of Bolton will agree with Lord Galway to justify that the place was actually disposed of to Mr. May, because he has writ to me in behalf of one Cob for the second secretary's place; but by the way that recommendation makes it plain that, whatsoever the first was, the second place was not disposed of. My Lord Galway has again writ to the King upon the receipt of your letter to put him in mind how the matter stands, as he takes it. In short, if the King will have you put in again, I will make no remonstrance of the undoubted right of the Government here to put in their own secretary; but if His Majesty thinks you never were out, I shall obey him in continuing you in, according to the orders received from my Lord Jersey and Mr. Blathwayt; but if it should be in our power to make a choice, you shall have my voice though you execute the place by a deputy, and this is more than I would say to anybody but Mr. Prior, to whom I am, etc." (V. 107.)

William Blathwayt to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 19–29. Loo.—"I have both your letters. Your arguments are categorical and so ought the conclusions to be, but 'tis not always as one could wish. This day my Lord Albemarle and I pleaded your cause to the King, who was mightily possessed by the Duke of Bolton and Lord Galway of their right, and 'twas much we could bring the matter to bear so far as you find in the enclosed copy of an order I now send to your Lords Justices. I have shaved close, if not strained a point, in the framing of it. However, you must look upon yourself now *in statu quo*, and having made your lodgment there, fight the rest out with all your friends and interest, for which you have time enough, and my consulate being soon at an end, I can only give you my further wishes.

"The Spaniards are worrying of us with protests everywhere, but Canales would have the earth open, etc. *Flectere*

si nequeo, etc., as you will see by a paper my Lord Jersey will bring with him. The Scots have quitted Darien, which should pacify them a little. I suppose we shall see you here in good company before the week be at an end." *Enclosure.* (V. 110.)

Enclosure.

W. Blathwayt to the Lords Justices of Ireland.

1699, Sept. 19–29. Loo.—"His Majesty, being informed of what has been done by Your Excellencies in reference to Mr. Prior, does think fit that everything that may concern him in that office be put into the same condition in every respect as before Your Excellencies' intentions to make any change in the said office, and do remain so until His Majesty shall otherwise determine, wherewith I am commanded to acquaint Your Excellencies." *Copy.* (V. 111.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 20–30. Paris.—"I think it proper to let you know that the gentleman that uses to write to Lord Portland has been several times with me, and says that some affairs suffer by reason you have not supplied him. I have let him have some which I may pay myself again upon what shall be ordered him. I have also supplied twice one who[m] you shewed to Mr. Stanyan, though I never saw him; I fancy he is capable of doing service, though I do not know upon what foot he is, I suppose you remember him. Tr . . . , he that came from England, was found out and was ordered to leave St. Germains, so that it cost me a great deal to no purpose; I have sent him back again. This I send by an express." (V. 115.)

John Ellis to Matthew Prior.

1699, Sept. 22[–Oct. 2]. Whitehall.—"I should be false to the friendship I profess to have for you if I should let slip any opportunity of serving you or imparting such things to you as it may be for your service to be acquainted with, as that which follows is, which I received to-day from Ireland, in relation to the dispute between you and Mr. May, from one who is your friend in the matter, but desires at present to be undiscovered. His words are:—'I find on this side it goes much otherwise than Mr. Prior expects, Mr. M. being looked upon as first secretary, and they that made him so insisting on it so strongly as to write to the King, in reply to the last orders from Loo. Mr. P. writ a letter to Lord G. which is so resented for some expressions in it that it is sent to the King as an aggravation against Mr. P. I wish him advertised of it, and must leave it to your conduct to do it so as he may not let it be known whence it comes.' And in another letter, for two posts come in together, he says:—'He wishes what he writ last be come safe to my hands, and were imparted to

the gentleman concerned' (meaning yourself), 'which is also wished by a much greater person' (meaning the Earl of Berkeley) 'who thinks it a cruel thing to endeavour to cut any man's throat with his own pen.'

"If this notice be of any service to you, I shall be very glad, and if you have heard it otherwise, I hope, however, you will accept it, as it is intended as a mark of the sincerity wherewith I am, etc."(V. 114.)

The Earl of Jersey to Matthew Prior.

1699, Oct. 2[–12]. Squerries.—"I thank you for the concern you have for my being ill. I have little or no pain, but continue very lame, and believe that the air here with the satisfaction of seeing one's garden, though but out of the window, will contribute more to my health than the prospect of St. James's Street. If *les absents ont tort*, I hope you will find the advantage of being upon the spot." (V. 117.)

A[braham] Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

1699, Oct. 14. [N.S.] Paris.—The bearer, Mr. John Stanyan, is an uncle of mine, who has a son at Lisbon, settled as a merchant there. You were so kind as to promise to assist in getting him made Consul there. I desire you to give my uncle leave to wait on you, when he has anything to propose in order to effect his design. (V. 118.)

The Lords Justices of Ireland, Lords Berkeley and Galway, to W. Blathwayt.

1699, Oct. 14[–24]. Dublin Castle.—"We have received your letter of the 19th–29th past from Loo signifying to us that it is His Majesty's pleasure that all things relating to our Secretary's office shall be put into the same condition as they were before the late Government made any alteration therein, and in answer thereunto we desire you will please to acquaint His Majesty with our ready obedience to his commands, and that we have given the necessary orders accordingly." *Copy.* (V. 112.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, Nov. 21. [N.S.] Paris.—"The same day Mr. Prior left this place I went to Versailles and had my audiences upon what I assured His Majesty; this King did return in very obliging terms, how much he desired to continue the good understand [*sic*] that was now so well established, that he did again repeat to me what he had formerly assured me, etc.

"I made 2311 (Torcy) a visit where I took occasion to discourse what had passed in my private 2184 (audience); I knew 217 (he) 1256 (expect) 194 (ed) it, and I was also willing

to 1907 (find) 377 (his) sense of the matter. 2311 (Torcy) said that this 390 (King) had acquainted him with it, that I had fully explained the whole proceeding to 1917 (His Majesty) that 2153 (Comte Tallard) was to set out on Monday next. 217 (He) did still seem to 1000e (press) the great credit and 1922 (interest) our 390 (King) had with the 230i (States General) and laughingly said he wondered I should 973 (lesse)n it. I told him I did own that the 230i (States General) had always showed a great regard to anything that was 1323 (propos) 194 (ed) from 1917 (His Majesty), that 217 (he) had recommended it and would continue to do it, so that nothing should be wanting on 377 (his) 840 (part), that, though there 886 (were) great 800 (hope)s of a good 1241 (conclu) 282 (si) 673 (on), yet till it was 1064 (agree)d to by the 230i (States General) it was 822 (more) than could be said that 876 (they) would certainly do it. On the whole matter I 1907 (find) this 761 (Court) impatient till it is done, saying no 872 (time) was to be 974d (lost) that the 1450 (King of Spain's) 397 (life) was very uncertain, that the last account they had, 1450 (King of Spain) was 646 (ill) again.

"I waited on 2153 (Comte Tallard) this morning, and his discourse was much the same; he gave me to understand that, though 1717 (Bonrepos) would seem to be concerned in this 1703 (affair), 217 (he) was not in the least, that 2153 (Comte Tallard) hoped to 1907 (find) all things ready at his return into 1577 (England), which would be on Saturday next, that he had all the duty imaginable for the 390 (King), that his intentions were and always would be to endeavour a good understanding between our Masters, which I was not wanting to make him the same assurances. I hope 2153 (Comte Tallard) will be so just to me as to give the same 1191 (turn) to this matter in 1577 (England) as he does now here.

"The enclosed for the King I had from Mons. Hempskirk; it comes from Spain. Mr. Blaithwayt has an account of what we know from Mr. Stanhope himself, though I am told just now that there is an express come to the Spanish Ambassador here, that Mr. Stanhope is to depart in eighteen days, and to keep his house in the meantime. The Duke and Duchess of Lorraine is here and are to see the 1776 (late King) and 1777 (late Queen) this day at Chaliot [Chaillot]. I hope the account Mr. Prior will have given His Majesty does approve of the proceeding. I shall continue to obey Your Lordship's orders as becomes, etc." (V. 119.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, Nov. 18–28. Paris.—"I have so little to acquaint Your Lordship that I had no thoughts of troubling you this post only that in some of my former I did forget to thank Your Lordship for yours of the 30th October, where I had your directions in relation to the Portugal Ambassador. I am better pleased there was no occasion to proceed in that

manner, but had he not made some excuse, it would have been necessary. He has since been to wait on me, and I find the little time he was in England his company was with odd persons; being so imprudent as to tell me he found the King was not beloved by his people; but perceiving I did not approve of such discourse, he soon altered it. He was much with the Spanish Ambassador, saying he had showed him his memorial before it was delivered. I do not fail every time I see Mons. de Torcy to press him for an answer to the ship that was taken on the coast of Guinea, and I am promised to have it the next week, though I very much fear it.

"The African Company here is so much concerned, it being done by their orders; and they are in so low a condition that in case they are obliged to make satisfaction, as I hope they will, it may be their ruin, which is the reason this matter is so delayed, some of the greatest men in France being in that Company. I take notice of this to Your Lordship lest the proprietors may think I do not take that care I should for them." (V. 120.)

[Major Burrowes] to [Colonel Stow].

1699, Nov. 20[–30.] [London.]—"I have appeared but little, my dear friend, ever since my coming, no more than the necessity of my business required, but there is a rogue or two of a messenger who rushed in where I once lodged, which obliges me to be more close, and my friends, since the barbarous news is come out of Ireland, have plied me with so many advices that I do not stir out once in a fortnight, and then by night only, and (which is a great trouble) I dare not venture to take a turn in the old grass walk for fear of those rogues my adversaries, who, I have reason to believe, would stick at no villany to avoid appearing such as I have painted them. I am extremely obliged to honest Fego[Vavasour], who, though under troubles of his own, affords me all manner of assistance. I have been forced to lodge a Bill in Chancery, which went, I will assure you, very much against the grain; but I had otherwise been precluded in point of time, and the treacherous trustee would have swallowed me up to rights and sold the estate. I want you to be one of my evidence, but if you do not come quickly, I shall be forced to run away from my cause, and make you another visit, which nothing but the extremest necessity or danger shall make me resolve upon, as being unwilling to be burdensome where I can do no service. It would not be improper to hint what I write here to F[ather] S[aunders] upon the first opportunity you have, and pray give in my name all acknowledgments and services. My cousin likewise will be obliged to go over to Ireland to look after her affairs (for she is basely used), or else to some place very distant from this town to live after a cheaper manner. I warn you, my dear friend, not to mistake this for desponding, I never had one such thought; but if I

find myself deceived in my calculation again, as to time, I mean, I shall have no plum porridge to eat, and must find out another way of living.

"I was under so many troubles when I writ my last letter that I remember very little of it, only I cannot think it was fit to be showed, nor shall I be able to send you any that will.

"Prognosticators say we shall have very warm weather, and that this session is not like to be of any long continuance; for myself, who am swayed by the reasons which I at the first formed my opinion from, I confess [I] can find even in this speech something to confirm me, and cannot but think it odd there is nothing of the Spanish affair in it.

"That heroic action of the wild boar has charmed us all; but we cannot without trembling reflect upon the danger to which this so promising a young Prince was exposed and how fatal it might have proved if he had missed his shot, but the over ruling Power will, I trust, be ever careful of Royal blood, and in due time exterminate monsters.

"The Major-domo has, I hope, reached you by this time, and then he has brought you news of the death of poor Treaseare, than whom no man could more long to see you. God Almighty has been pleased in a short while to deprive two of my friends of a satisfaction they had set their whole hearts upon. Honest Fego continues invincible in his faith, and I must conjure you as a man of honour and lover of justice, without respect of person to get him true information in one matter; I hope our friend who paid you the money when he came from Fontainebleau will prove just in the end, though he has not hitherto been so clear as he ought, but (which is not fair) been his own carver all along. About April last he sold a horse, as we are informed, to the Governor of Paris; since you make to Fego offers of service, he begs of you to visit this Governor's stable to discourse the Master of his Horse, to know what he gave for it, and if any of less value was sold at the same time and put off upon the credit of this, and what price was set upon each, by the buyer. Col. Skelton (to whom pray give my humble service) I daresay will go with you, if you have not French enough yourself; you shall by-and-by, when he comes to me, have an exact description of this beast.

"I beg of you, my dear friend, to give my most humble duty and service to my Lord M[elford] and to his Lady likewise if you have an opportunity; if I can pick up anything, worth communicating to him, you shall have it, but I am more inclinable to retire for a month amongst some of my relations thirty or forty miles off, that I may get a little fresh air, which I very much want, upon my word. Adieu.

Postscript.—"I hope you will pardon this trouble of inquiring into the price of a sandy grey gelding about fourteen hands three inches high, a good fore-hand and had all his

goings, about six years old." *Copy. In the same hand at foot.*—

" Directed thus :
A Monsieur
Mons. Proctor chez Mons.
Veard à St. Cosme dans la
rue la Harpe
à Paris.

" Lord Middleton's letters come under a cover directed thus :
A Monsieur
Mons. Leverque [*sic*] St. Jean
Banquier
à Paris."*

(VI. 4.)

ABRAHAM STANYAN to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, Dec. 2. [N.S.] Paris.—" I have the favour of yours of the 13th past with one enclosed to my Lord, which he is forced to delay answering till next post. His Lordship spoke yesterday to Mons. de Torcy about the Guinea ship, The Dantzickers, and Fleming's daughters. My Lord thinks fit to send my Lord Jersey a copy of the memorial he gave him about the second affair, and for the others we are not without hopes of doing some good, though we have no positive answer ; His Excellency will likewise give my Lord an account of what Mons. Torcy answered upon each of those heads. He grows every day more civil than other ; whether it be a change in our affairs, or his, that causes it I cannot tell. The Duke of Lorraine went on Monday to see King James at St. Germains, who would have returned his visit yesterday, but that he has got another boil, since he was lanced for the former one, which does not ripen kindly, and puts the poor pensioners of that Court into great alarms, for if it do not come to suppuration the Monarch dies. Rigault has made some progress in your pictures since you spoke to him, and promises me to finish them in few days more, which I shall take care of and not forget your candlestick. All your friends are well, but are in pain for your cold. Mrs. Frowd says the best almanacks hold it unfit to bleed in November, but my Lady Lawson says it may sometimes be necessary, and that Sir Winfred had not now been alive, if he had not done it." (V. 123.)

The EARL OF MANCHESTER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, Dec. 5. N.S. Paris.—" I could wish this Court was so well inclined as to grant any favour in relation to the French Protestants, but at present I cannot see any inclination : neither can I hope ever to have such credit with Mons. de Torcy as on my own account to persuade him ; if at any time I do find a probability, I shall not fail to act as

Cf. Manchester's letters of January 13th and 15th [*N.S.*] 1700. (pp. 389—392, *infra*).

desired. I have not made all my visits of ceremony, and this day I am going to the Arsenal, so you must excuse me to my Lord Jersey, having also nothing to acquaint him with. K[ing] J[ames] continues still ill; his distemper is boils in his backside; I do not hear there is much danger, unless it should turn to a fistula; in a little time you shall hear more. I understand Mons. de Tallard could not be so soon with you as he intended by reason the wind continued some days against him, which obliged him to stay at Calais.

"I am glad to hear our proceeding was approved, and am impatient to know the success of that matter; though it may be I shall hear it first from Mons. de Torcy. I was sorry to find by yours of the 13th that you was not well, but your last of the 16th November shows me the contrary; none can wish more your health and welfare than him [*sic*] who is, etc."

Postscript.—"I desire to know what method I am to take about the ninety *louis d'ors.*

"The enclosed for the King comes from Spain." (V. 124.)

Abraham Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

1699, Dec. 5. [N.S.] Paris.—"Just after the letters of last post went away I received (according to custom) yours of the 16th past with several enclosed, which I have taken care to dispose of according to your directions. One of the two to Dr. English I have given to Dr. Sherard, who will send it to Lyons, the other I keep by me till he comes. Mons. de Villeroy is gone to his government of Lyons, but care is taken to send the letter after him. I think I told you in my last that Col. Stanhope was gone to Bordeaux to meet his father. Before he went it seems he bought Frowd's coach and horses for a hundred pounds, payable by my Lord Tavistock, who lost that money to Stanhope at play.

"King James certainly continues very ill, though his Court endeavours to hide it as much as possible; they say he has got a carbuncle near his fundament, very like the plague. I have not been able to see anybody yet that ought to give me an account of this matter, but the French Ministers think him in danger. Lord Tavistock and Mr. Mansell set out from hence on Tuesday next, but I don't know of anything you want that I can take that opportunity of sending you." (V. 125.)

Abraham Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

1699, Dec. 9. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have received yours of the 20th past, and am sorry to find by it that you are not yet in a condition of writing yourself, but I hope your machine will quickly mend, though your indisposition suggests some melancholy thoughts to you. My Lord bids me tell you he has yours of the same date, and has given orders for supplying you with venison. I writ you a line last night to serve as a cover to a packet from *l'Amy de la confidente*, which I

recommended to Mr. Mansell's care, who has promised me to deliver it into your hands as soon as he arrives. I don't know whether you gave any New Year's gifts to the officers of the Court last year; if you did, pray let Mr. Drift send me a list of them, that I may govern myself accordingly.

"This King is now actually making a reform of ten men in every company of foot, and five of every troop of horse and dragoons throughout the Army, except the dear Household, which will lessen his forces near forty thousand men. The like reform in the Fleet is talked of, particularly among the secretaries and civil officers of it, which is a very ill precedent, and ought to be discouraged, for sure the Devil never yet heard of a reformed secretary.

"I suppose you remember that one Count Bozelli, an Italian ruffian, was put in the Bastille last year upon suspicion of having a design to poison our King; I am told he is now sending a gentleman into England to vindicate his innocence, that the Duke of Mantua and the Elector of Bavaria have granted him letters to His Majesty for that purpose, and that he is soliciting Mons. Torcy for another from hence, which, it is said, he has obtained a promise of. I don't know who this gentleman is that is going, nor his master's case; the former I shall know in few days, and the latter I presume you are no stranger to.

"The Emperor's Envoy here had yesterday an audience of the King about the restitution of Brissac, who told him that the bridge was now almost destroyed, and assured him that the town should be restored in a fortnight's time at furthest; we cannot help believing him this time.

"Mr. Howard and Col. Frowd had a quarrel t'other night at my lodgings about drinking glasses upon their toes, wherein the Colonel was egregiously in the wrong, saying some words which the other had reason to take ill, which included my Lord Tavistock also. They both went away immediately and sent the Colonel a challenge to meet them at Mons with his friend.

"We got notice of the matter and acquainted my Lord Ambassador with it, who sent for them all, and made up the matter, the Colonel being reasonable enough to own he was in the wrong, and declared he did not design to affront them. In the meantime I lose my evening's diversion, which the Colonel cannot easily repair."

Postscript.—"I had almost forgot to tell you that I send you by my Lord's direction Bourg's Interrogatory, which he got yesterday of Mons. Torcy. Now we have it we don't know what use to make of it, and therefore my Lord desires you would show it to my Lord Jersey, that His Lordship may send such further directions upon it as he thinks fit. You know the matter was begun before my time, so I am wholly a stranger to the proceedings against this fellow, but my Lord supposes you may remember them." (V. 126).

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1699, Dec. 13–23. Paris.—"I was this day with Mons. de Torcy, where after I had discoursed him of some matters that are still depending, particularly the ship taken on the coast of Guinea, also the officer of the Customs that they have imprisoned at Cherbourg; which he assured me he had pressed Mons. Pontchartrain, who promised him he would return the answers, so that I might have them the next week. Mons. de Torcy said he had orders from the King to acquaint me that the payment which was agreed to in relation to Hudson Bay, or as they call it, Fort Bourbon, was not yet complied with, that he desired I would take some care in that matter. I desire Your Lordship will represent it to His Majesty and do what you can in it, since it may otherwise have that consequence that when the next payment comes due on the account of Orange, they will have that pretence to delay it; besides there is reason to believe the parties concerned will petition this King to be paid out of that money, which I think should be prevented. Mons. de Torcy took notice also that the affair of Spain was still depending and not agreed to, which might be a great prejudice to this King, since they had now a good opportunity of acting matters to their advantage, the Queen of Spain being dissatisfied with the Court of Vienna; he did not mention the occasion, but I imagine it is something in relation to the Countess of Berlips,* which they have denied her: all I said [was] that I was assured that the King my Master would contribute all he could to bring that matter to a good conclusion; he answered that the King was fully satisfied of it.

"Count Zinzendorf had an audience of the King this day, having just received a courier with the news that the Queen of the Romans was brought to bed of a daughter. The King told him, as he says, in a very obliging manner, that he had given orders to Mons. de Villars to take his audience of the Archduke in the manner the Emperor should think fit, so that at present this Court seems desirous to oblige the Emperor as much as they can. I have had no intelligence of late from St. Germains, because the late King's illness put a stop to all business there; he is now pretty well recovered, dines in public, so that, though he looks thin and wasted, yet they think his life is quite out of danger. The Irish forces were designed to be comprehended in this general reform, but [King] J[ames] having represented to the French Court that they were unfortunate people that could not return to their own country, that they had served well in the war, and would be more useful than any others, whenever they had any design upon England: these reasons and his request to the French King prevailed with him to let them continue as they were; and accordingly he sent Mons. Barbésieux

* *Cf.* Grimblot, Letters of William III. and Louis XIV. ii. 385, footnote and *Archives Diplomatiques. Recueil des Instructions. Espagne*, i. 472.

last night to K[ing] J[ames] to acquaint him with that resolution.

"Mr. Prior may remember that I talked to him when he was here last about taking up one Claude, a Frenchman, as he says he is, who served the late Lord Brudenell, in order to exchange him for Arnold, or Pierre Perault. If Your Lordship be of that mind, I am told he is almost every night at the Dog Tavern in Drury Lane; and Couchman the messenger will be a proper person to apprehend him, because he was acquainted with him at Paris. This Claude was much at St. Germains whilst he stayed here: and endeavoured to have seduced several English thither; but the best reason for seizing him is for having attended on Richardson, one of the assassinators, while he was concealed in the late Lord Brudenell's house, which, I am told, he bragged of when he was here last. Bayley does give me great hopes that the person *dont il s'agit* [Bryerly]* will go for England, but he must first send away his wife and children. I shall take all the care I can in that matter. I am told that Lord Bernard, who is now at Montpellier, keeps a correspondence with the Court of St. Germains by the means of Sir William Ellis, who has shown several letters from him, and, I am assured, has writ back to my Lord. This will be delivered safe into Your Lordship's hands by Col. Richards. I am sorry you have had the gout, I hope it is now over."

Postscript.—"I have received your last of December the 4th." (V. 128.)

Abraham Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

1699, Dec. 23. [N.S.] Paris.—"We were yesterday at Versailles, but were put off till next Tuesday for answers to our matters depending. Lady Calverley and her pretty daughter, Mrs. Sherrard, arrived here on Saturday night last, in their way only to Montpellier, whither they intend to be going in ten days' time. Frowd and his spouse set out to-morrow heartily tired of this place. The words that he offended Lord Tavistock and Mr. Howard with are these:—Upon their saying if he did not drink the glass of wine upon his toe they would go away, he replied in an angry grinning manner, rising from his chair without any provocation, that they might both go, he did not care a turd, and would not drink it. So you see 'twas only the manner of speaking that could give offence. I have lately received a letter from Mr. Tonson, but he says nothing in it of his design for Virgil; however, I will go to Bologne this afternoon and talk with him about it, and in my way call upon Rigault and L'Argillière, designing to dedicate this whole evening to painting and brass lamps. I have had a misfortune in my poor coach which will save your reputation; my unruly horse in turning kicked backward and broke one of my doors and the glass

* *Cf.* pp. 391, 396-7, *infra*, and Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, pp. 98-9.

in it all to pieces, so that it cannot last any longer; otherwise you will say I might have used it for several years. In the meantime I am ruining myself to get another.

"Col. Stanhope and his father by computation were at Bourdeaux five days together without hearing of each other, so that the father is come hither without hearing of the son, and it's believed the son is gone to Bayonne to meet his father. If it had been husband and wife one would have sworn it was done on purpose." (V. 129.)

ABRAHAM STANYAN to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, Dec. 26. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have none of your favours (I mean written ones) to acknowledge, which makes me grieve heartily for want of venison, but if you think it necessary to have a little wine to it, you know we are in the country for it.

'He that gives me venison
Shall have God's benison,
But he that gives me venison and wine
Shall have God's benison and mine.'

These you know are the words of a great poet that loved eating and drinking, I believe, better than you do.

"I have been with all the painters and am promised to have your pictures in fifteen days' time, reckoning from yesterday. Bologne has drawn the sketch, but is now altering Horace for Virgil, and finding a place for Æneas. When he has done it, I desire to know if I must pay him for it, and agree for the design. You remember we reckoned the charge would be near 80*l.* sterling, and therefore I desire to have Mr. Tonson's positive orders in the matter, having not had any signification of his intentions from himself. I am very glad to find by my Lord that you are preparing your poem for the press. I hope Your Honour won't let so great an admirer of your works as I am be long without one of them. I wish I could do you justice in the French language, that the wits here may admire your verse as well as your prose, but, alas a day! I can't rhyme. However, if you should upon any occasion use me ill, that shall be my way of revenging myself upon you. In the meantime I think you must make your friend Ben Portlock translate it into Latin verse.

"Would you do a body a real kindness? If you would, you must help an honest helpless brother of mine, whom I had formerly occasion of recommending to you, to some clerk's place in an office. Pray think of it, and do it with such a charming grace that I may know nothing of it till it is done. Such actions well become a great poetical soul. I have no news to send you, but that an ox is roasting next door, of which my Lady, who is big with child, is to have the first cut for fear she should long. We have heard of a Lady that longed for a bull, but never any for an ox, I presume." (V. 130.)

ABRAHAM STANYAN to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1699, Dec. 30. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have yours of the 11th inst., and have done what you require of me in it. I suppose you will laugh at this marriage between Marocco and the Princess of Conti, but 'tis very true that such a letter is come. It pleases her vanity well enough, though you will easily believe it is not like to be a match, she being so much better as she is.

"My Lord Manchester was yesterday with Mons. Torcy, but cannot yet get any answer to his memorials about the *William and Jane* taken on the coasts of Guinea, and Beale, the Custom-house officer, now prisoner at Cherbourg. In talking with Mons. Salibai (?), one of Mons. Pontchartrain's secretaries, I found that the report of the Admiralty upon the former was returned, and that it was to be laid before the King the first Council day that should be appointed for examining prizes. I discovered by him that they have no other reason to justify the taking that ship but by pretending that we have no right of trading there. They say the Isle of Goree and its dependencies was yielded to them by the Dutch at the Treaty of Nimeghen, so that they reckon it now as one of their Colonies. At the same time they tell you the King of that country is obliged by treaty to trade with them alone, exclusive of all others except the Portuguese, which destroys their pretence to a colony by owning a King of the country, and grounding their right of excluding us upon a treaty made with him. You will easily foresee this is like to be a pure chicanery; however, since these are like to be the only arguments made use of, my Lord Manchester desires you would inform yourself from the persons concerned of the true state of this matter, that he may be prepared to answer these trifling objections when they are made. I have writ about it to one of the proprietors of the ship, and desired him to wait on you with such informations concerning our right to that trade as they are able to give you, which my Lord desires you would send him as soon as you have them." (V. 131.)

The EARL OF MANCHESTER to the EARL OF JERSEY.

[1699-] 1700, Jan. 13. [N.S.] Paris.—"Since my last of the 6th I am informed that one 240 224 113 280 400 196 240 152 727 (Major Samuel Maxwell), a 1340 887 946 960 (Scot, went from hence) 713 511 120 3 370 (two days ago) for 276 140 356 (Rouen) where one 323 332 114 453 248 137 (Atburthnet*), a 241 113 340 326 130 (merchant) of the same country, is settled, who is to 1161 188 798 (provide him) a 704 (ship) to carry 798 293 1982 1412 394 (him to Scotland directly). When 217 502 198 1034 (he comes there), I am told 217 384 to 1388 1280 (he is to address himself) to the 1340 340 777 of 2071 at 194 356 332 113 630 (Scotch Earl of Gallway at Edinburgh), to whom, it's said, 217 1878 123 1456 127 of

* Doubtless a slip of the pen for Arbuthnot.

2201 (he carries letters of consequence) from 280 642 130 1590 124 (St. Germains), and because it is thought that it may be much for His Majesty's service to have 798 1026 27 (him seized), I send Your Lordship the best 188 122 341 62 100 292 673 254 798 (description of him) I can get. 217 (He) is of about 1351 944 1056 121 254 903 (thirty-five years of age), a very 393 286 157 290 73 74 660 (lusty tall man) with a 1904 182 237 461 27 202 180 and 491 994 216 382 (fresh-coloured face and brown hair), but now 306 323 122 (wears) a periwig. 217 1048 (He was) formerly an 356 282 50 87 (ensign) in the 1340 453 1270 124 (Scots Guards), and served as such in 2063 (Flanders), but deserted about that time that 240 224 112 1750 272 80 280 158 (Major-General Ramsay) got the regiment; however, 'tis probable there are many officers still in it who 810 798 (know him). Since 377 (his) desertion, 217 (he) has served in the 1282 (Irish) forces 640 (here); but having been 273 622 80 28 1021 (reformed since) the 844 (Peace) was willing to undertake 714 (this) piece of 1820 (service). Though I am told 217 272 62 73 28 (he railed) publicly before 217 887 (he went) at the 1776 (late King) for his ill 1192 824 (treatment) of him, he pretends to leave him in great 507 500 712 137 (discontent), and to 1680 216 87 51 804 (venture hanging) in his own country rather than 1827 640 (starve here). I have already told Your Lordship that one 342 323 70 a 1340 30 1006 (Clerk, a Scots priest,) who went by 711 1148 (the name) 202 711 118 182 122 243 (of Father Cosmo), was 437 4 468 (run away) from 960 (hence) with some 1782 (money) of the 1776 123 (late King's), and of several other persons to a 1402 1063 2161, since which I hear that 217 384 370 131 (he is got) to 234 157 188 87 in 1598 1207 (Leyden in Holland, where), I presume, it may not be difficult for his 1621 (Majesty) to get 798 1026 30 (him seized); and I am of opinion it may be very much for his 1621 124 1820 (service), since it is certain that he had a great 442 487 (share) of the 1776 120 1721 (late King's confidence) in several matters. I am in hopes he may be the more easy in an 642 211 408 833 1083 803 (ingenuous confession), because he can have no 362 112 711 118 680 440 354 of 168 298 90 290 211 (further prospect of advantage this way, after having) 340 34 327 194 (cheated) them so grossly; at least when he is 673 180 in 338 121 293 27 158 (once in custody), it will be no hard matter to 357 293 118 133 454 456 453 (extort the truth) from 798 (him). He is a very 290 73 74 453 643 660 817 301 280 50 30 a 796 276 660 407 281 (tall, thin man, long-visaged, a high Roman nose) with a 1904 502 422 357 803 (fresh complexion) which 'tis said here, he 260 642 291 33 (painted), and about 1351 778 1056 128 834 (thirty-eight years old): I believe Mr. Prior has seen him and can 188 124 341 62 172 798 (describe him) more 357 744 394 (exactly).

"I have discovered a correspondence carried on between one 240 224 112 332 112 113 94 144 128 (Major Burrows),

who went from 960 (hence) about 713 1300 122 (two months) ago and abscond[ed] in London and 1558 286 96 144 837 (Colonel Stow, one) of the 164 104 122 642 198 (assassins). I am told the former has a 846 (pension) of a 1830 236 1038 123 a 1056 (thousand *livres* per annum) for writing 1283 (intelligence) to 1943 (Lord Melford), though 286 96 144 (Stow) receives them under 711 1148 (the name) of 680 18 293 118 (Proctor). They are 1412 194 1676 3 243 410 223 461 (directed thus) 680 18 293 118 (Proctor), 340 37 160 (chez), 243 410 223 461 (Monsieur) 300 483 (Veard) 301 123 (vis) à 301 123 280 642 130 182 127 241 277 34 188 233 216 114 261 à 1160 (vis St. Cosme, Rue de la Harpe, à Paris). I have a copy [of] one of his letters by me, which contains no great matter more than virulent reflections ; I cannot send it Your Lordship by the post without hazarding the 1346 (safety) of the 1322 724 210 300 (person who gave) it me, but I shall do it by the first safe opportunity. In the meantime I suppose Your Lordship will think fit to send the 1412 803 (directions) to the 263 286 1314 (Post Office) that all 1456 120 283 284 423 422 341 63 11 27 (letters so superscribed) may be 286 416 136 (stopped) or at least 416 774 (opened). By what 332 112 113 94 144 128 (Burrows) mentions in the 1456 (letter) 'tis probable some of the messengers know him, which makes me hope he may be discovered.

" There is likewise one 298 298 283 112 (Vavasor) an 327 293 114 248 158(attorney)mentioned in it as a very violentJacobite, under the 1148 (name) of 203 370 (Fego), so called, I am told, from his 127 430 667 804 (squinting). 286 96 144 (Stow) told 171 157 394 (Baily) at the same time that 202 711 112 280 720 188 433 (Father Saunders) had ordered him to give him a 827 36 (note) of his 237 28 51 804 (lodging), because he believed 1776 (King James) would shortly have 1634 622 798 (occasion for him), adding that he would 283 673 (soon) hear of 866 1036 (something) that would 280 114 842 798 (surprise him). I have put B[aily] upon finding out what was meant by that dark expression, but as yet he can make nothing of it. B[aily] tells me that 491 156 197 394 (Bryerly) has obtained 778 158 236 1038 123 (eighty *livres*) for his part of the 1166 120 1782 (Pope's money), and—which is more—1776 122 977 (the late King's leave) to make 880 of it in sending 6 468 (away) his 307 203 (wife) and 340 646 30 273 87 (children) ; having represented to him that he could not 240 642 290 642 1030 640 (maintain them here), but that he had a 491 1316 327 1774 (brother at London) who had 680 402 130 (proffered) to take 760 254 1030 (care of them), so that he is resolved to 860 1030 4 468 (send them away) some time this week by the 468 254 276 300 88 (way of Rouen), and to take the first 1694 (occasion) of 206 76 77 96 146 804 1280 (following himself). I intend very shortly to bring 714 1620 (this matter) to an 384 284 36 (issue) one 468 253 326 1316 (way or another) ; at least to be satisfied whether all that is told me about it be true.

B[aily]is to 911 (bring) 798 (him) to 1160 (Paris), and then 306 487 (we are) to find some 468 (way) of 331 3 390 (breaking) the 1570 to 798 (design to him), in which I shall lose no time nor spare any pains to make it succeed. I am told that 1944 (Lord Middleton) receives packets here under 714 1 138 (this address) à 243 410 223 461 234 1038 428 280 642 130 223 326 (Monsieur L'evecque Saint Jean), Banquier à Paris. I desire Your Lordship would please to give orders that all 1456 120 (letters) so directed be 416 774 (opened), that we may discover what truth there is in the information.

"I was yesterday with Mons. de Torcy, and showed him the Articles they had agreed on at Hamburgh in order to prevent a war in those parts. He said that he had not yet received them, nor none of the Ministers, but thought it was right what they had done. I do not doubt but Your Lordship has them before now from Mr. Crescett, yet nevertheless I send them enclosed in this.

"King James is rather worse.

"I had forgot to tell Your Lordship Mons. Wryberg did execute the orders he had received concerning Neuchastell, who will send an account of what passed." (VI. 3.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

[1699-] 1700, Jan. 15. [N.S.] Paris.—"I should not have given Your Lordship nor myself so much trouble in my last of the 13th. inst. had I foreseen this opportunity of writing so soon by the son of the Dean of York; nor did I believe it worth an express; though I cannot tell but some use may be made. The enclosed is the letter I mentioned from one Major Burrowes to Stow, one of the assassins, who is in the faction of Lord Melford. The true name of Fego is Vavasour, an attorney; F.S. means Father Saunders; Lewis is the person that brought these horses into France, who formerly belonged to Lord Feversham. It may be proper to open at the Post Office all the letters that come with either of these directions; which may give you some light into matters here; but to tell you plainly my thoughts, I cannot think there is any method taken now at St. Germains; the late King being so ill that he cannot last long. I find most of that opinion; nevertheless, I was glad to hear the King had ordered a proclamation in Scotland, since it is there where they expect most good. It is said now at St. Germains that there is a rising in Scotland, and that they have declared themselves for a Free State, which I am far from believing, only it shows where their thoughts are. Major Samuel Maxwell is certainly gone thither with some directions. They had that confidence in Cosmo, *alias* Clark, that the Duke of Berwick lent him his calesh, thinking he would return the same day, but he went with it to Leyden; and since they hear he is at Amsterdam. He knows the whole proceeding of that Court, so that if he could

be taken he would soon confess all he knows, there being no prospect for him to return hither.

"T[ooth] tells me that Major Richard Bozier who lives at the upper end of Red Lion Street, and frequents the Bear Tavern in Holborn, near Bloomsbury Square, with one Mr. Fleetwood, who keeps him company, were concerned in sending Goodman away as Obryan knows.

"Mr. Minnis, who went from hence in August last, corresponds with Lord Middleton, as also one Netterville. I believe Mr. Prior knows them both.

"I take all the care I can to know the steps of those fellows that were in the assassination; they do not appear in public, as they did when I came first; I cannot see any kind of danger but from such villains. Father Saunders' expression to Stow, that King James would shortly have occasion for him, I do not like. Whenever any of them are missing, I will give Your Lordship notice, though I hope none is admitted near the King but such as are known.

"I have received Your Lordship's of December 28th with orders to concert with Mons. Vryberg concerning Neuchatell; the letter he had the post before did mention that I should have such directions; and as the case stood with Madame de Nemours, we took the first opportunity of doing it. Mons. Vryberg has sent the account of what passed to His Majesty; we are of opinion, nevertheless, that the next time I see Mons. de Torcy, I should let him know, I had also received the same orders, and so leave it. Madame de Nemours is resolved not to revoke her Governor, and is preparing to go to her house, fourteen leagues from Paris in pursuance to the orders she has received: I could wish something could be done for her, though I cannot see how well the King can concern himself in that affair." (VI. 5.)

Matthew Prior to Abraham Stanyan.

1699–1700, Jan. 8[–19]. Whitehall.—"On Saturday morning we had three posts from France, the 2nd, 6th, and 9th, and yesterday we had a fourth of the 13th. I am looking over all these from you, and I think I have little more to do than to acknowledge them.

"I hope you have all the pictures by this time in your own hands; here are my verses, which, let me tell you, everybody here says are admirable. Davenant's book is highly saucy, but I think it has done no real mischief, to our friend in particular, though in general it was and is a hint to shew everybody where they should be angry.

"I hear nothing of young Davenant's marriage, but I know him so well that I expect the worst things of that kind from his conduct.

"As good verses might have been made by a true Maroquin as those you sent me, I thank you for them, however, since, if you had had better I presume you would have been equally

liberal of them ; I had them, too, from Abbé du Bois, from whence I infer that he thought them good. Pray send me *Jonathan* as soon as he is printed, and indeed all dramatic poetry. Pray ask me for no more poetry either sublime or burlesque, for henceforth I will write no more verses.

Exceptions to the foregoing rule :—

"To-morrow night Batterton acts Falstaff, and to encourage that poor house the Kit Katters have taken one side-box, and the Knights of the Toast have taken the other. We have made up a Prologue for Sir John in favour of eating and drinking, and to rally your toasts, and I have on this occasion four lines upon Jacob. We will send you the whole Prologue when we have it together.

"N.B.—My Lord Dorset is at the head of us, and Lord Carbury is general of the enemy's forces, and that we dine at my Lord Dorset's, and go from thence in a body. How my health will answer to this, if you should ask, since I came from the Gravelpits but on Saturday, I answer that I only sit down to table when the dessert comes, eat nothing but roasted apples, and drink sack and water.

"I will think of the books, and of everything else in which I may serve my Lord Manchester, as soon as my health lets me tumble a little more freely amongst my papers than I can do at present.

"The Savoy Ambassador makes his entry to-day, as Mr. Yard will tell you more at large in the *Gazette* next Thursday ; this is a return, or, as we call it, an equivalent for what you say of the Portugal Ambassador having a mind to make his exit." *Copy.* (XII. 386–7.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to DR. [HUMPHREY] GOWER, MASTER OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

[1699-] 1700, Jan. 9[–20]. Whitehall.—"I will not so much as endeavour to make any excuse for my long absence from the College ; it is easier to confess the fault and throw myself wholly upon your goodness. I have long intended to come in person to Cambridge to ask your pardon there, but since my return to England a very ill state of health and a very great deal of business have withheld me. I hope, however, in some time to beg a week or ten days to wait on you and to assure you that, as I have great obligations to the College, and most particularly to the master of it, so I shall always endeavour to shew myself not wholly unworthy of them by bearing an entire affection to the society, and a very true respect to him who governs it. Your pupil, my Lord Jersey, has been pleased to accept of me in his office, from which place I ought rather to send you good prose than indifferent verse. I will promise you that this is the only folly of this kind that you shall ever have from me, and that I am a little ashamed of playing the child at thirty-three, though my friends at Co[urt] buoy me up (too partially, I am afraid) in the frolic ; whatever I write,

Sir, you have a right to it, and in what condition soever I am you must command me." *Copy.* (XII. 390.)

MEMORANDUM.

"The letter of the 8th January directed to Mons. l'Evêque, le Jeun [*sic*], Banquier à Paris, contains in substance that Lord Bazil [Hamilton] was here not admitted to see the King, that in Scotland they said no Darien, no K[ing] W[illiam]; that the petition of Scotland was signed by seventy thousand hands, that my Lord Queenborough and all the great men there have set their heart upon Darien. '*Orpin will come off with a scratched face at the end, I say*'; and in another place, '*Orpin courts all parties, loves cordially no party, sneaks and cringes.*' 'Why does not Count Tallard press Q[ueen] M[ary's] 50,000 pounds?' The rest was upon several heads of news that occurred here; and it concluded with the author's being sincerely, faithfully and cordially, servant to the master and mistress." *Copy.* (XII. 391.)

ABRAHAM STANYAN to MATTHEW PRIOR.

[1699-]1700, Jan. 20. [N.S.] Paris.—"I received the last post two letters from you of the 1st inst., one about the extravagance of my extraordinaries, and the other about Dr. English; as to the former, all I can say to it is that since my bills are thought too large, I shall mend next time, though 'twill go much against the grain till I obtain the bounty money. As for the latter, I don't know what's become of him, there's no news of him either at Lyons or here. The Savoy Ambassador's entry differed from ours, and, which is worse, from that of Venice in two essential points, first, that Mons. Torcy's coach did not assist at it, because the Ambassador was not willing it should go before his, and he would not let it go after; therefore it did not go at all; and, secondly, that Breteuil's coach led the march, which is the point you know they have been so long labouring for. As to that, the Ambassador says it was done by surprise, and that he knew nothing of it, which, if true, makes Breteuil a very saucy fellow. However, the ministers here take great notice of these two marks of distinction between him and Venice, at this time especially when the alliance gave them reason to hope for more favour than others.

"I hear from Rome that my Lady Salisbury is fallen sick of the small pox; what danger there is of her life is not said, but I'm sure you'll agree with me there's none of her beauty."

"We have had scarce any new books or plays since you went. There is published a little book called a '*Suite des Mœurs de ce Siècle*,' by Bruyère, which I believe may be genuine; if you have a mind to have it, you shall. De la Fausse [*sic.*, *i.e.*, Antoine de Lafosse], the author of *Manlius*, who, I think, is known to you, has lately written a play called *Thésée*, which has been acted several times with great applause;

I have not yet seen it ; when 'tis printed I will send it you. Mons. Rousseau is very much your servant, and desires me to tell you so." (VI. 6.)

Abraham Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

[1699-] 1700, Jan. 23. [N.S.] Paris.—" My Lord Manchester bids me tell you he was in hopes you would have sent him your verses [*Carmen Seculare*] which came out on New Year's Day, since you cannot but know he longs to see them, as well as the long-expected catalogue.

" The Court of St. Germains is very intent upon those little heats that have lately broke out in Scotland, and do all they can, you may be sure, to foment them, looking upon this as the last push they shall have for recovering their lost game, but I doubt not His Majesty's prudence will easily disappoint their expectations. But what sounds foolish enough is that the late King cannot help owning he is jealous of a certain Duke [Hamilton] there, who is very busy, and believes he is carrying on designs for his own good rather than for that of St. Germains ; insomuch that I have been told it has been debated in his Council whether his party in that kingdom should act in concert with the other, and at last it was resolved that the more disturbance there was 'twould be the better for him. We have various reports about it, and therefore my Lord desires you would send him word whether Lord Bazill Hamilton has presented any address to the King about the Scotch affairs, whether he offered any and was refused, or whether he has any to present, and likewise that you would let him know what effect the King's proclamation in that kingdom has had, or whether they still go on in their tumultuary way of petitioning." (VI. 7.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

[1699-]1700, Feb. 16. [N.S.] Paris.—" Upon the receipt of Your Lordship's letter of the 25th past,* I ordered Mr. Stanyan to discourse B[ryerly] upon the two points contained in your answer ; viz., what service in particular he was able to do, and what reward he expected for it ; which he accordingly has done, but not with an entire satisfaction, several hours being spent in disputing before B. would answer either of these questions, still pretending very unreasonably that we were to tell him what service was expected from him, and then the King might best judge what it deserved ; nor would he at last declare any points in particular wherein he could be useful, but said he would answer in general terms to any questions that should be asked him ; and because I had foreseen by the last meeting he might still make the same difficulty of discovering anything till the agreement was made, I gave Mr. Stanyan some interrogatories which I had received from

* *Cf.* Coxe, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, p. 101.

Baily, and which he questioned him about at last, finding he would say nothing of himself. I send Your Lordship enclosed a copy of them with his general answers to most of them: he added that he could do service in several other matters not contained therein, and would very heartily do it when he had once given his word, but the reason why he insisted upon knowing what service in particular was required of him was the fear he had of being neglected when our Court had no longer occasion for him under pretence that he had not performed what he promised nor discovered anything but what we knew already, and I am apt to believe that may be the true reason of his shyness. The same reason makes him insist upon fixing the gratuity he is to have for his pains, as to which great endeavours were used to persuade him to refer himself to the King's bounty, which would be greater or less according to the service he did. Your Lordship will easily believe we did not forget on one side to enlarge upon the advantages of the King's pardon and liberty to his native country after having so notoriously offended against both; and on the other to set before his view the long train of miseries he was to expect here, that he and his family was now left to starve, and would be yet in a worse condition if the late King should die; which 'twas probable he would in a short time; that he was forbid to come into his presence . . ."

Fragment endorsed:—Answered Feb. 15, 1700. (VI. 10.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

[1699-] 1700, Feb. 24. [N.S.] Paris.—"The last I received from Your Lordship was February 5th; as to *la personne dont il s'agit* mine of the 16th has given some satisfaction, I hope. What you write concerning 661 273 (Mayre)† I have discoursed Bayly, but cannot give Your Lordship any further light than what I have already done, only it is certain he knows all the intrigues of that Duke [Hamilton]. I am assured that 274 340 483 283 87 837 of the 164 280 121 122 642 198 (Richardson, one of the assassins,) described in the 680 342 4 240 1350 887 946 960 (proclamation, went from hence) three days ago to 630 617 (Ghent). His business is to settle some accounts with one 272 158 (Ray), an 1576 660 (Englishman) who has set up a sort of 240 408 202 18 294 273 254 216 296 (manufacture of hats), and has lived there ever since he 491 96 230 1162 (broke prison) in 1577 (England), where he was clapt up for 762 197 203 386 804 357 340 36 20 230 113 173 73 74 122 (counterfeiting Exchequer Bills). I am told he will stay there three weeks, and may easily be found with that man in case His Majesty pleases to have him 1026 27 (seized). Some days ago went from hence for England one 276 880 (Rouse), who formerly rode in the late King's Guards, but has of late been employed as a messenger; he is of a little stature, rather thin than fat, of a fresh complexion and dark

† *Cf.* ib. pp. 96, 100.

brown hair, aged about thirty-eight ; one 260 112 432 (Parry) set out at the same time ; he is of a fair complexion marked with the small-pox, a little man, full bodied, and aged about 43 ; he was formerly a servant of the late 1781 254 263 367 127 (Marquis of Powis), but now 306 323 120 (wears a) 657 432 (livery) of the 1776 (late King). 356 250 124 (Ennis), whom [*sic*] I formerly told Your Lordship was come hither from 927 216 242 73 293 88 (Duke Hamilton), is gone back again to 1082 (Scotland), as 'tis thought by the 468 (way) of 1577 (England). About a fortnight ago forty-two Irish officers were broke upon pretence of their having been absent from their regiments, though they were reformed before ; it is said they have thoughts of going to Scotland, in case there be any likelihood of disturbances in that kingdom. I have enclosed the answers concerning some matters that were still depending, and Your Lordship will find they are much readier than formerly to do us justice. By the next post I shall send that of the Guinea ship, which, I find already, will consist of such reasons that cannot be allowed. I hope the main point will be that we have no right to trade in those parts ; we are to deal with an African Company where some of the greatest men are concerned, and it is their interest to have the ship condemned as lawful prize." (VI. 13.)

John Macky to the [Earl of Jersey].

1699–1700, March 12[–23]. Dover.—" Your Lordship desires to know who this Mr. Nosworthy, *alias* Powel, is ; he married in King Charles's reign a daughter of Serjeant Maynard's, the great lawyer, and at that time was one of the great sticklers against the Court, but having a trial at law with Sir William Basset for an estate of twelve hundred pounds a year, he turned Papist in King James's reign, and by that means obtained his cause. He went to France with King James, and hath been ever since a great man with him, and indeed esteemed one of the best heads about him ; he was always a great man with Melford, and stuck close to his party to the last, but my Lord Midletone and others having the better of that party at St. Germains they have thrown him out, and for that reason he hath left Paris with a design to come to England if he can. He is now at Boulogne, and Browne is gone thither to be with him, who will certainly give us an account of his motions. Your Lordship may remember that, when I was last in town, you told me that you had advice that this Nosworthy had left St. Germains with a design to come for England, and you was then pleased to order me to write down immediately to this coast to observe him if he landed. If Your Lordship pleases to look over that letter which you received from Paris last January, perhaps it informs Your Lordship more particularly about him.

" All the priests and other disaffected people go now most frequently in one William Reid's ships that goes constantly

betwixt London and Dunkirk, and is very well known at the Custom house in London. This Reid turned Papist some few months ago at St. Omer, and is now chiefly entrusted, as Browne informs me. I have therefore ordered Browne to be as frequently at Dunkirk as at Calais, and although there is no great danger to be apprehended from those people, yet I believe Your Lordship will be pleased to know what they do, and who goes backwards and forwards." (V. 30.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1700, April 17. [N.S.] Paris.—" The reason I did not write the last post Mr. Prior will have acquainted Your Lordship; there is little alteration in the affairs here, only that Palmequist has had a private audience of the King, wherein he delivered a letter from the King his Master and at the same time, as his orders were, did acquaint this King of what had passed in relation to the King of Poland, and did demand his assistance as guarantee and mediator of the Treaty of Oliva. I find he also assured the French King that the Treaty of Alliance which Sweden had lately made with England and Holland, there was nothing therein contained contrary to his interest, that it was not yet ratified, and he supposed that His Majesty would also be informed of it. The French King's answer was that he believed he was already acquainted what steps he had taken, that his Minister in Pologne had orders to do all the good offices that were possible to bring matters to a good understanding; that he might assure his Master he would contribute all he could to the quiet and peace of Europe; that since he had assured him there was nothing contrary to his interests in the last alliance his Master had lately contracted, he would believe it, though he should be able to judge better when he saw it. This account I had from himself, and he is of the same opinion as I am, there is little to be expected from this Court further than good offices.

" I am told, though Mons. de Torcy did not acquaint me of it, that the King of Pologne has engaged to this King not to assist nor concern himself with the town of Dantzic in any thing that may happen between France and them; this, I find, was also an inducement that made Mons. du Heron be sent. I suppose they will expect some submission from them, as also I hear they pretend to support their Ambassador at the Porte even so far, if there be occasion, to declare war against the Turks; if so, I think it will be pushing this matter very far with the loss of their trade; which France cannot well spare, having at present little elsewhere. It is certain they are fitting out six great men-of-war at Toulon. Mons. Spanheim seems very uneasy that it should be thought in England, as he says it is, that the Elector of [Brandenburg] his Master was not as zealous as any other to prevent a war in those parts, and used several arguments to me that the Elector

could not do otherwise than what he has done, that he had writ very pressingly to the King of Denmark, and also to the King of Pologne, that he had refused him any assistance of his troops, which he desired of him, that by all the advices he had from Berlin he was satisfied the Elector desired nothing more than to act to the liking of the King, and hoped I would take notice of it when I writ next. I told him I would not fail, and that I did imagine there was the same good understanding as ever between the King and the Elector, that, as he knew very well, the reports we have had here that the King of Pologne had taken his measures with the Elector, etc., though we have now reason to believe the contrary, so these things may have made some impression in England, though I could not tell they had; besides the Elector not having thought fit to declare himself so fully as the guarantees have done may have given some grounds for these suspicions; he owned what I said was true, but said, as the Emperor was also mediator, it was not proper for him to declare himself more fully till the Emperor had done it; besides, the situation the Elector was in obliged him to be more cautious than others, not knowing as yet the resolutions Pologne would take, which made it more necessary for him to be on his own guard. The Countess of Berlips is soon expected here, Mons. de Torcy having dispatched the passes and sent them to meet her on the way; Mons. de Zinzendorf would have taken care of them, but they chose rather to do it themselves in order to oblige her the more.

"I must beg the favour of Your Lordship if you think it not too much presumption to assure His Majesty of my most humble duty and the great obligation it would be if the King would do me the favour to christen my son; if I have it, the Duke of Grafton will be the other with my Lady Sunderland; I hope Your Lordship will pardon this." (VI. 22.)

JOHN MACKY to the EARL OF JERSEY.

1700, April 9[--20]. Dover.--"Browne is returned to Dunkirk from Bruges, and writes me a confused letter referring me to a former which never came to my hands. He says in this that my Lord Kildare keeps open house for all the Irish, and that Mr. Rookwood, a Suffolk gentleman, and Mr. Apleby, a Yorkshire gentleman, with several others live with him at Bruges; that my Lord Ailesbury is married to a lady of that country, and that they are very glad that Obryan proves stiff.

"He also tells me that Bayly, King James's poulterer, landed at Dunkirk with Mr. Rotier, the engraver, and George Ward, the attorney, that the two former are gone forward to St. Germains, and the other with Mayres and Crichton (confessor to the English nuns at Dunkirk) are gone to St. Omer. This Bayly, the poulterer, was sent over from St. Germains about three months ago; some of his messages fell into Mr.

Secretary Vernon's hands, and a letter from Sir William Ellis to him (desiring him to make haste back so soon as R. could dispatch him, for it was of consequence) was intercepted, and we have had people looking out for him all over this coast, but Reid and Gallaway carry all these people immediately from London. Ward is he that solicited Your Lordship by Harry Killigrew for a pardon for killing a man, and one Peters that went over with him is brother, as Browne says, to Father Peters.

"Bayly came over in a boat from St. Valeries, which was hired for him by Harry Griffin by King James's order, and Reid is just now ready to sail from Dunkirk to London.

"This, my Lord, is the substance of what Browne writes, which I think myself obliged to communicate to Your Lordship." (VI. 19.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1700, April 21. [N.S.] Paris.—"I am told that one Richard, 500 248 73 78 (Connel), brother of him that was seized at 237 93 (Loo) last year, who is now a lieutenant in the Regiment of Picardy, went from Dunkirk for England some days ago, but does not yet himself [know] what he is to do there, as he writ to his wife. I am likewise assured that there went from hence for Rouen two days ago one 230 76 394 (Kelly), where is he to embark on board a Scotch ship that is to land him at 234 62 453 (Leith): he is said to carry with him commissions and other papers of consequence, and has the 216 18 294 273 128 (pictures) of the 1776 (late King) and 2324 (Prince of Wales), which will be a mark to know him by. 1134 390 286 673 (Lord Kingston) and one 1403 868 197 233 87 200 (Captain Sutherland) both 1340 123 (Scots), set out yesterday for Rouen, and are to go on board a Scotch ship; the master's name is 343 174 461 91 (Colebourne); the ship's name I cannot learn; he has undertaken to land them in some unsuspected place in 1982 (Scotland) and 'tis probable 230 76 394 (Kelly) may pass in the same vessel.

"I am positively told that the 1776 (late King) has actually 273 242 133 137 194 (remitted) 713 1758 1830 236 461 198 (two hundred thousand *livres*) to 1982 (Scotland) but cannot learn 673 724 80 711 173 73 78 124 (on whom the bills) are 770 90 (drawn).

"As to *la personne*, I cannot hear of him, and suppose he may 1707 (abscond) among the rest of the 341 34 144 (crew) upon a report spread here that 1917 (His Majesty) is persuading the 1743 761 (French Court) to 1568 1030 721 (deliver them up): whether true or no, 'tis certain they believe it, and have orders from the 1776 (late King) to 394 500 180 4 76 30 (lie concealed), and for their encouragement each of their 846 121 (pensions) is 642 341 34 164 28 (increased) 713 1758 (two hundred) and 1423 236 461 198 (fifty *livres*).

"As to 372 166 34 (Grace) I shall send your Lordship some account of him by the next post." (VI. 24.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1700, April 21. [N.S.] Paris.—"Upon receiving Your Lordship['s] of April 1st O.S., I took occasion to discourse further Mons. de Torcy concerning the affairs of the North, where I acquainted him how well satisfied the King was with the account I had given him, and that he did not doubt but France would take such methods as were proper to prevent those mischiefs. I then enlarged, as from myself, that it might possible [*sic*] be, the reason why Denmark has not agreed to any accommodation is that they might still flatter themselves that, since France had not declared against them as others had seemed to do, they might possible [*sic*] at last be of their side; he repeated again the order the French King had given his Ministers, &c., and that I might assure the King that there should be no step taken without his knowledge, nor any treaty whatsoever but with his approbation, and did own, the true reason that made it not proper for this King to declare against either Denmark or Pologne was that it might have that consequence, when they found themselves wholly abandoned, they would then make with the Emperor what conditions he thought fit, which might in some measure defeat what had lately passed, especially since most Princes are to be included, and endeavours used accordingly: this makes them more cautious, and I am apt to think the Court of Vienna is of the same opinion, not to disoblige the King of Pologne: time will show which way he inclines; I rather believe it will be to France. Mons. de Torcy told me that England and Holland had pressed that France would send a squadron to the Baltic, but said there were no occasion of them, they being sufficient, besides not advisable at this juncture for the reasons he had mentioned. I do find also by Mons. Meyercroon that this Court will not contribute to the peace of those parts otherwise than by good offices, though I do believe Denmark has made them all the offers and promises that were possible to engage them.

"I have again pressed Mons. de Torcy about the effects taken by Du Bart on board the Dantzic ships; he tells me that that town is sending deputies hither, that, if I could get a true state of those goods and also their value, care should be taken of it; provided the deputies do own they did belong to the English.

"I have had a good deal of trouble, but I think I have prevented the son of Count Boselli's going for England.

"Mons. Palmequist has received orders to wait on me in the manner I desire. I suppose Mr. Stanhope is to do the same in Holland to the Swedish Ambassador." (VI. 25.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, April 28. [N.S.] Paris.—"I was very glad to find by yours of the 11th that the Parliament was up; if their proceedings are like to be the same, it must at last bring us into confusion; I should have answered yours concerning Mr. Smith but that I was not come to any resolution. I have now fixed that matter with Mr. Lewis, a relation of Mr. Stepney, and who was with him all the time he was at Berlin: he is one that I can rely on, and knows very well Paris and those sort of persons we are to deal with. I cannot but take it extreme kind of you and return you many thanks. I hope I shall hear from Lord Jersey the next post, for we cannot christen the child till I know."

Postscript.—"Yesterday the Duchess of Berwick, newly married, appeared at the toilette of Madame de Bourgogne and dined at Madame de Lude's. I was very near her; you see how the world goes; I have writ to Lord Jersey what I know as yet of Madame de Varennes." (VI. 27.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, May 5. [N.S.] Paris.—"The Court being at Marli, Mons. de Torcy will not be at Paris till to-morrow, so you must make my excuse to Lord Jersey that I do not write this post. I am to tell you that my wife lays all the fault on you that we have not yet heard if we may give the little one the King's name, and without knowing positively, I dare not venture. You see what you are like to bring on yourself, so that at present you are a little out of favour and will be unless we do hear by the next letters. I shall do all I can to serve the University, and shall take care about the Horace, when I have it. Mr. Stanyan will acquaint you how that matter stands, it being seized at Dieppe. I have not seen for some time the Archbishop of Rheims, and I believe he is gone to his diocese. I did imagine the King would not allow anything in relation to another secretary, and did not intend neither to desire it. You may think Mr. Lewis or any other would be glad of it, and it has been their own doing, for two or 300*l.* per annum more or less will not make me uneasy. I should think, as this will save the King considerable, it will be a reason for the Treasury to pay my allowance as it comes due. I need not tell you I have any thoughts of growing rich; if I do not make my circumstances worse hereafter is all I desire. To-morrow dine with me several of the great men of the Court, amongst them will be the Maréchal Villeroy; he will certainly ask after you, as he often does. The little hope our friends at St. Germains have is now in Scotland, and if that fails, all things will be quiet till the next meeting of our Parliament. I should think [if] instead of a change in the Ministry we had a new Parliament, it would be more for the King's service; not much good can be expected from a last session. We hear

that the King intends for Holland this summer, when it is certain, pray let me know." (VI. 28.)

The Earl of Manchester to William III.

1700, May 5. [N.S.] Paris.—"The liberty I take is occasioned by the Venetian Ambassador here, who in the name of that Republic came to acquaint me in order to let Your Majesty know that the great obligations they owed Your Majesty and the desire to continue always in your good opinion had made them appoint Mons. Mocenigo their Ambassador in ordinary to reside in England, and that he was to set out very soon; he afterwards did insinuate as if that Republic hoped Your Majesty would send also a minister there, and said all that resided at Venice generally had the character of Ambassador. The answer I made was that I would not fail to let Your Majesty know what he told me by order of the Republic; that I could not tell what your intentions were; neither did I remember any minister from England that resided there ever had that character. I need not tell Your Majesty on what principle that Republic acts. The great esteem and veneration all Europe has for Your Majesty, which, I must confess, they have been long finding out, and the advantage they have received and may still at the Porte makes them seek your protection. I beg leave to return my most humble thanks for the honour I have lately received, and as it is still a further mark of your favour, so I hope my actions will never deserve the contrary, since I have no other ambition than to study your service in all that lies in my power, which I hope Your Majesty is satisfied of by my Lord Jersey." (VI. 29.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1700, May 8. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have recommended to Mons. de Torcy the affairs of the North, and have so fully discoursed that matter that I cannot but think they are very sincere, and will take the best measures they can to procure an agreement; that Mons. Chamilly had orders to make a new proposal, viz., that neither side should erect any forts during the Treaty of Pinnenberg, that all the troops should withdraw only such a small number as was to be agreed on by both parties; and a time limited for the examination of the case in question, and all sides to acquiesce in the determination; he could not tell whether this would be accepted, but that he had declared to the Ministers of Denmark and Pologne by the King's order they were not to expect any assistance from hence, and that it was with much difficulty this King did not declare against them, since by the Treaty of Oliva and the instances and solicitations of others did [*sic*] in some measure oblige him; that he hoped they would consider their own interest and contribute what they could to bring

matters to a good conclusion. He said also their own Ministers had the same orders. He did not wonder that I pressed him in this matter, since he found that the King had discoursed Mons. Tallard about it; that it was very true the Ministers of Denmark, etc., in all places did endeavour to make it believed that this Court was very well pleased with what they did; but did desire I would take off all such suspicion, and assure the King that no treaty nor alliance should be renewed with them till the affairs of the North were settled; that the reason they could not proceed otherwise at present was the measures they were obliged to keep, lest it should force them entirely into the Emperor's interest, which at this juncture might be of ill consequence. I did also desire him to let me know when he would mention the late Treaty* to the Emperor's Minister here, and what measures they intended to take, that I might act conformable to them. He said he should not take notice of it to him till Tuesday sevennight, that they should send order to Mons. Villars with a copy of the treaty to communicate it to the Emperor; and at the expiration of eight days afterwards, in case he has no answer, to send back the courier, and to declare this King will take it as a refusal; that, lest, if it should so happen, the Emperor might engage the Pope, the French Ambassador there is to communicate it also, with a desire to have it kept secret. They also think to do the same to the Republic of Venice, and will impart it to their Ambassador here about the same time he mentions it to the Emperor's Minister. As for Spain, they thought it not yet proper, saying they should now soon see the success of this great affair; that the King would have the honour of it; that the case was extremely changed in two years; that the French King had now all the obligation and interest to wish the welfare and life of our King, assuring me the great concern he was under some time this winter, when they heard from Mons. Tallard the King was a little indisposed. This, I take, is not unlikely, it being plainly their interest, else I should not easily be persuaded of their good intentions. I wish it was so elsewhere. I cannot yet learn whether the commander or any of those persons that came from Cartagena are still at Paris; the next post I hope I shall be able to give some account of them.

"I have taken the liberty to write to the King, the Venetian Ambassador having waited on me in the name of the Republic to acquaint the King (with a great compliment) that they had named Mons. Mocenigo, of great distinction among them, their Ambassador to reside in England; that he had orders to set out as soon as was possible. I find they are in hopes the King will also send thither. I have also taken this occasion to return my most humble thanks for the late honour the King has done me. I fear to be too tedious;

* *I.e.*, the second Partition Treaty.

therefore shall acquaint Your Lordship another time what further occurs." (VI. 30.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, May 8. [N.S.] Paris.—" So soon as I received yours from Hampton Court we christen the child; so that matter is over, but must tell you we was impatient to hear, for till then you had not mentioned the King would let me have that honour. I send Roger over with the *sage femme*. I have writ to Lord Jersey, and, I suppose, there will be no occasion to keep him long. I must tell you Mr. Stanyan knows nothing of the great affair, nor that which relates to 444, 467, 62, 484, 196, 236, 120 [Sir William Ellis*]; neither is it convenient he should, for he always declined seeing him on that subject, and would only trust the Church.

" You talk of alterations in the Ministry; I hope Lord Chancellor will continue, though the usage he has met with is no great encouragement. Brocard presses for money, and I have let him have ten *louis* for the present. I do not find he is very diligent, and it may be there is not much to know." (VI. 32.)

Abraham Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

1700, May 18. [N.S.] Paris.—" Yesterday evening I received yours of the 2nd inst. from Hampton Court about your former commissions, and shall be careful of performing them to your mind. As to the pictures, Rigault has almost done 'em. And for the etched figures, when I have an answer to my last, the Duke of Somerset shall soon be satisfied. I will go this afternoon to La Garde, and take my judicious friends with me to examine the brazen vases. I will likewise do what I can to moderate the conditions the Abbé de Brignon would impose upon you, which, I must confess, are very hard in my opinion. I was promised to have the answers of your letters to send by this post, but they are not come.

" You gave me leave to assure Count St. Maurice some time ago that you would write to him in a post or two, but have not kept your word, which makes us both uneasy. I excuse it as well as I can upon the present hurry I imagine you are in; however, I hope you don't forget him, nor my orders to return home, which I am now ready for, and should be glad to receive. The Countess d'Auvergne is now a better Catholic than most of the new converts here, and has been several times at Mass, which is all the news I have to send you." (VI. 36.)

The Earl of Manchester to the Earl of Jersey.

1700, May 19. [N.S.] Paris.—" Yesterday Mons. de Torcy acquainted the Emperor's Minister of the whole affair; who

* *Cf.* Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, pp. 111-112, 117, 121, 126, 128.

seemed mightily surprised and complained much of the proceedings of our King, taking notice how many engagements had been made between his Master and him ; to which Mons. de Torcy answered he thought he had no reason to complain, after what had passed on that subject at Vienna, and that the Emperor had been informed of every thing that was now agreed to, that this matter was not of a new nature, for that there had been a secret treaty between the Emperor and France concerning the succession of Spain in 1668. When I saw Mons. de Torcy, he told me all that had passed, and I was glad to hear of this secret treaty being a good argument to Mons. de Zinzendorf, as you will find afterwards. He soon took notice of it to me and began much in the same manner. I told him I wondered to see him so much surprised, since for some time he always assured me there was such a matter in agitation, and that it was concluded ; that if he would consider a little, he would be then convinced that the King had not only considered the interest of Europe, but that in particular that of the Emperor, that what might be very doubtful, and even not likely to obtain by a war might now be secured, if they pleased. He said what faith could be expected if the Pyrenean Treaty and the renunciation that France made was not valid ? To which I answered that I did believe the Emperor did not take it to be a full decision in relation to Spain, else he would not have made a secret Treaty with France in 1668, wherein he yielded much more, as I was informed. I then proceeded to show him the situation of affairs, the power of France, the interest they had in Italy, as also in Spain ; besides, what he had often told me he feared the Spaniards would declare themselves for a Prince of France, I was of opinion he would at last think this was the only way to prevent it, and that they had it now in their power. Upon the whole matter he seemed much otherwise than at first, and begins to be satisfied the King could not obtain better conditions, and thinks the only difficulty that will remain will be in relation to Milan, which I left him to judge whether he thought the Princes of Italy would be contented that either France or the Emperor was master there. After this discourse he went again to Mons. de Torcy, and desired a copy of the Treaty, which he said he would send him, and then made him some proposals as from himself, that he might be better able to inform his Master ; which he afterwards acquainted me with, which I send Your Lordship in his own words as well as I can remember. He is now so apprehensive lest Spain should declare themselves for France, as you will see by the questions he asked Mons. de Torcy, that he will do what he can, and it is thought here he is well with the Emperor. He sends this day an express to Vienna, and I think to Count Harrach in Spain, as also does the Spanish Ambassador, who[m] Mons. de Torcy has acquainted and has given him a copy of the Treaty ; he only said that it was a

matter above his understanding, but would not fail to inform the King his Master of it. The Venetian Ambassador is also acquainted with it, and Mons. Callières goes this week to the Duke of Lorraine to notify it to him, so Your Lordship may judge it will not be long a secret.

"The news we have here is that the truce between the Muscovites and the Turks is concluded, that the King of Denmark has declared to the Emperor's Minister that he cannot accept of any mediation but from France by reason the mediators and the guaranties have showed themselves too much in the interest of the Duke of Holstein.

"A nephew of Berkenhead and of the same name, though it is believed [he] goes by another, is gone some time for England, he is to be heard of at Evans, a hair-merchant, in the Old Baily; it is thought he is doing no good there." (VI. 39.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, May 22. [N.S.] Paris.—"I had the favour of yours by my servant, and am obliged to you for letting me know what passes with you. I do not doubt but the King will take such measures as will be for his service, and should be sorry if the Whigs should carry themselves so as not to be as zealous for the King's interest out of employment as ever they was, when they was in. You may easily think Lord Somers cannot but have a great many friends, but they may show their friendship and yet continue their duty to the King; I suppose all affairs are to be managed by other hands, which I hope will make the Parliament more reasonable, though I very much fear it, and it will be well if they do not come at last to name our Ministers; for my part, as I have always acted on a principle with little regard to my own advantage, so I shall continue, let the consequence be what it will.

"The discourse we have here is that Lord Jersey goes for Ireland, and you will hardly quit him. It will be a concern to me, having now to deal with a man of honour and one who is true to the King; nevertheless, if so, I heartily congratulate him.

"I was in hopes by Roger to have received what I desired concerning 444, etc. [Sir William Ellis], they seeming much more inclined to act sincerely since I have assured you they would receive a letter. I believe the hurry you are all in gives you no time to think of such matters, neither do you mention that 1110 [Grace*] is come, though I suppose he is, by reason Mr. Mackay paid him the money I ordered at Dover.

"We have no other discourse here than of the Treaty concluded, which is no longer a secret, even the very particulars of it. I have not yet learnt what St. Germains thinks of it." (VI. 43.)

*Cf. Cole, *Memoirs of Affairs of State*, pp. 110, 117, 122, 124, 126.

The Duke of Somerset to [Matthew Prior].

1700, May 19[–30]. Petworth.—"The expectation that I have been in since the receipt of yours of the 7th to hear from the Abbé de Louvois was the only reason I did not answer yours sooner, because I did intend at the same time to have given you an account of what he wrote to me concerning the Greek letters, but that is not yet come; so I do begin to believe they are a little ashamed of their proposal to oblige us to insert in the title-page of every book *Cantabrigiæ Typis Academicis, Caracteribus Græcis Regis Christianissimi.* I wonder they would not add their founder's title too. I am sure, he deserves more to have notice taken of him. Well, I cannot help my being a little impatient to receive this long expected letter, which, perhaps, may explain this affair: at least so far as to their intention whether to sell the letters or to present 'em; for accordingly this will appear reasonable or not. Now to the other affair: I have enclosed sent your account of the prints back again, and have drawn a line over what I do desire you to procure for me as soon as you can." (VI. 37.)

The Duke of Somerset to [Matthew Prior].

1700, May 24[–June 4]. Petworth—"I received yours of the 21st with the letter from the Abbé de Louvois and their proposals for the Greek letters by an express a Wednesday last, for which care and diligence of yours I do return many and many thanks. This letter of the Abbé de Louvois contained nothing but compliments, referring our affair to Mons. Clément, whose proposals are something mended to what you wrote to me some time since by this alteration, viz.: *Typographeio Regio Parisiensi*: all which I will more fully discourse you when I come to London, which will be about three weeks hence: therefore I do desire nothing farther may be done in it till then, for I think I can offer that which may be accepted on [*sic*] of both sides. I have not yet wrote to Cambridge about these proposals, because you have already done it, and Mr. Talbot will be in London the beginning of the next week in his way hither with my son, and by him I shall know the sense of the University, for accordingly I shall act as to them and to you always as one that is your very humble servant."

Postscript.—"Pray tell me if the King does go to Portsmouth and when." (VI. 44.)

The Officers of King James's Court.

[No date. *Cf.* p. 284, *supra.*]

My Lord Chancellor Harbert.
My Lord Middleton } Secretaries of State.
Mr. Carroll }
Sir Richard Nagle, Secretary of War.
Mr. James Porter, Vice-Chamberlain to the King.
Mr. Robert Strickland, Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen.

David Floyd, Trevanian, Slingsbee Beedle, Mcdonnell, } Grooms of the Bedchamber.
Bagwell, Franc. Stafford, Mr. Cavney, Viuell and Hatcher } Gentlemen Ushers to the King.
Mr. Crane and Mr. Barry, Gentlemen Ushers to the Queen.
Mr. Conquest, Sir William Ellis, Commissioners of the Green Cloth.
Mr. John Stafford, Controller.
Mr. Richard Hamilton, Master of the Wardrobe.
Mr. Labadie, Mr. Lavarie, Valets de Chambre.
My Lady Tyrconnell, my Lady Dalmont and my Lady Sophia Buckly, Ladies of the Bedchamber.

To the Prince.

My Lord Perth, formerly Chancellor of Scotland, and Mr. Ployden, Governors.
Mr. Leyburn and Mr. Viuell, Grooms of the Bedchamber. *depuis* Gentlemen Ushers.
Captain Maginnis, young Beedle and Mrs. Buckingham, Equerries.
Mr. Barkened and Mr. Parry, Clerks of the Kitchen.

My Lord Griffen is a volunteer, sometimes there and as often at Versailles—a great many chaplains and servants below stairs.

Endorsed :—" For my Lord Ambassador." (VI. 46.)

William [Viscount] Villiers to Matthew Prior.

1700, June 9. [N.S.] Blois.—" I have transgressed beyond a fortnight designing to tell you when I was a little settled what I had seen a coming hither from Rouen. I saw nothing extraordinary but Notre Dame de Chartres, which is famous for the beauty and bigness of its vault, where is richly adorned the image of the Virgin Mary made by the Druids above a hundred years before the nativity of Our Saviour, till I came to Orleans, where I was presently struck with a general observation, that is, the deformity of the people, for I do not think I saw a whole human creature in the town. I saw there the *Pucelle* upon her knees cursing the English for burning of her. We went also to see out of the town a place they call the *Source*, that are two small *bassins* of water that furnishes a navigable river which throws itself into the Loire. We are now come to Blois, that most renowned place, which might, for ought I know, have been a mighty agreeable place some five and twenty years ago, but as now I can see nothing alluring but melancholy and solitude that often makes us wish for your company, which you might easily vouchsafe us if you would but borrow Pegasus, and I am sure the Muses could not refuse you."

Postscript.—" Pray, Sir, remind Mr. Swinfurt of sending the news directed at the post-house at Blois." (VI. 50.)

J[ohn] Hilton to Matthew Prior.

1700, June 6[–17]. Cambridge.—"Mr. Hammond came hither on Friday last, and to preserve his acquaintance wears a gown, keeps chapel and hall, and bows very low; but I do not hear he doth any great matters in town. He intends to stay a fortnight or three weeks longer, and after a small visit to his estate to return again. I doubt not but your friends would be as glad of seeing you when the King is gone." (VI. 48.)

Dr. P[eter] Nourse to Matthew Prior.

1700, June 6[–17]. St. John's College, [Cambridge].—"I am very glad to hear of your good health by our friend Mr. Hilton, and if you think Cambridge air did any good towards it, I hope, when you have leisure, you will come and take more of it. Mr. Hammond is now with us, he has a chamber in the College and comes very orderly to the hall and chapel. What progress he makes in his affair, or how he moves, I am not able to inform you, for he takes me to be too much in your interest to discover anything of that nature to me, but I hear that most of his former friends are still very firm to him." (VI. 49.)

Abraham Stanyan to Matthew Prior.

1700, June 19. [N.S.] Paris.—"I now find I shall not bring the pictures with me, for Rigault told me plainly yesterday the King had given him some work which would take him up three weeks longer; but after that was done the pictures should be the next, and I will recommend them to Mr. Lewis's care to put into Tourton's hands. Rigault makes abundance of excuses for this delay, but they are nothing to our purpose. I have paid La Garde 3000 *livres* for the brass figures and sent them to Tourton's and have also bought the statues, busts, and *Maisons royales* which the Duke of Somerset marked in the memorial, and come to 610 *livres*. When I have got an answer from the Abbé de Bignon about the types, which I expect to-morrow, I think I shall have given you an account of all your commissions." (VI. 53.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, June 19. [N.S.] Paris.—"I think you are much in the right, it is not of great consequence who dies, in case the King is well, whose life is all we have to trust to; I have wished my Lord Albemarle joy of the Garter, and so shall not trouble him so soon again; therefore must desire you will make my compliment of condolence. I was in expectation to have heard of new changes at Court; it may be there will be no more; I will tell you what they say at St. Ger[mains] that Lord S[underland] is gone dissatisfied into the country, having not been able to obtain the Garter for

Lord Ma[r]l[borough], and that some others are displeased. I do not think this very improbable. I wish I could talk with you to see how the world goes ; this happiness I cannot expect, though I hear the town would have it I was to be recalled. You know that will not trouble me, provided the King is not dissatisfied with my proceedings. I wish you all success in what you desire." (VI. 55.)

ABRAHAM STANYAN TO THE SAME.

1700, June 23. [N.S.] Paris.—" I shall set out from hence on Monday the 28th."

" This plaguy coach and horses stick by me still and give me more trouble than all the rest of my business, so that I no longer wonder at those who complain of the cares that attend greatness. I have every day twenty chapmen, but the rogues know I am going, and one would think my straits too, they make me such poor offers. However, I must part with all to raise as much money as I want." (VI. 54.)

CHRISTOPHER MARSDEN to ————.

1700, June 18[–29]. Prescott.—" I have been in the Isle of Man since I gave you the trouble of my last. My Lord has actually made me Archdeacon there : His Lordship has given me liberty to come over to England for some time to settle my affairs ; but then—oh ! after that I must return to Man. If you could procure me a prebendary's place or any spot in England before I go, or recall me to my native air, I would as long as I have breath pay you grateful acknowledgements.

" But I'm afraid through my foolish criticisms I have lost the favour, and so must sit down without hopes of a kind line to your abdicated and most disconsolate servant." (VI. 52.)

JOHN MACKY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1700, June 23[–July 4]. Dover.—" I have the honour of yours of the 20th from Hampton Court, and would immediately in obedience to my Lord Jersey's commands go to Flanders, or where else His Lordship should please to command me, if I did not know it altogether needless yet. Mayres, it's true, knows a great deal, and hath several letters of my Lord Melfort's all writ by that Lord's own hand to justify the truth of what he hath to say ; he hath also a copy of a journal sent to King James of all his affairs in Scotland, the people's names, who for, and who against him, but betwixt you and I [*sic*] the King hath already made use of Mayres's name to frighten Duke Hamilton into a better temper in the Parliament of Scotland, and till we see what effects this hath, I suppose my Lord will not think it convenient for me to go over again, nor to make any offers to him.

" I have a letter by last post from my Lord Seafield to meet at London on this matter, when I shall have the honour also to pay my duty to my Lord Jersey and to kiss your hands.

"Colonel Bignoll and Captain Macdonald came to Calais last Wednesday from St. Germains, and one Jones, a solicitor of my Lord Romney's in Ireland, met them there, and got their hands to some deeds in favour of their ladies' estates, and returned to London, as they are to St. Germains. Nosworthy is still at Calais by the name of Powell." (XX. 103.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, July 10. [N.S.] Paris.—"I was very sorry to find Lord Jersey had quitted the office and much more so by reason you also leave it. I suppose you have long foreseen this and cannot but have taken care of yourself, being upon the place; for you often said, men was forgot abroad. The hopes you give me that I am to correspond with Mr. Vernon makes me more easy. The Savoy Ambassador was with me to let me know that the Duke his Master had ordered Mons. de la Tour, who was formerly his Envoy in England, to return as such; this will cause a great discourse, by reason he was as Chief Minister there; but it is not hard to guess the reason he comes. I was in hopes to have heard something concerning Sir [William Ellis], etc.*, whose letter I sent lately to England. As soon as I hear from Lord Jersey I shall not fail to congratulate him." (VI. 56.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, August 27. [N.S.] Vorst.—"You will have heard at the Cockpit when I landed. At my arrival here I found everything as it used to be; the King is very well in his health, except his legs, which are mightily swelled. He takes something every day to carry off the humour by urine, but I fear he must do something more when he comes to lie still in the winter. You will hear by Mr. Blathwayt's letters all the news that is here. I am sure the peace in the North must be very pleasing to all who wish well to the King at home; it gives him great credit abroad. The French have made a very foolish figure in this business, who were found out at last not to be very sincere in their mediation, for it is sure they had no mind the business should be ended so soon. Mons. Tallard's quickness has made him let fall words that confirm it: *il disoit qu'il étoit impossible qu'une paix faite à la hâte pourroit durer.*

"I am come hither for one night with my Lord Albemarle; I will make your court for you. Mr. Blathwayt has just now sent me your letter, and the copy of the Portuguese letter which I had forgot as well as you. I am sorry you can give me no account of my business with Mr. Lowndes; pray send him my letter as soon as you can, and see him when he comes to town, for I long to hear how that affair stands; it is of consequence to me to have it finished.

* *Cf.* pp. 387, 406, 408, 410. *supra.*

"I am glad to hear you are going to Squirres† ; I hope your company will like it, though I own I doubt of it. I will endeavour to serve *de bruit* while I am in this country."

Endorsed :—"Answered 22, O.S. Aug., 1700." (VI. 70.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, August 31. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have received yours of the 16th ; the last post I received *Charnock's Letter Writ to a Friend after his Condemnation.* I know not from whom it comes, nor why ; pray send me word if it has been lately reprinted, and the best account you can of it. When you wrote, I find you had not received the good news of the peace in the North ; I hope that will make some alteration in the minds of people, and give you occasion of writing some politick news. Everybody here is glad and curious after it and all sort of news, which you will well imagine when I tell you that I hear a piece of news here of a ballad about the the streets of a young Knight of the Garter, a yellow-haired lady, and squinney. I wonder I heard not of this from you, being so much concerned in it as I am told, but if people knew how little their malice vexed me, they would save themselves the labour ; but, however, I desire you would let me know when you hear such stuff. The Admiral of the Fleet, I am told, is meant by the yellow-haired lady. I have had a letter from my wife, who, I find, certainly intends for Squirres. I wish I was of the party, I shall quickly be of one that will not so much divert me, which is that of Breda. Sunday next the King lies at Zulestein, and the next day to Breda, where he will stay till the Saturday following ; in the that time he intends to visit the fortifications of Bergen-op-Zoom. The King is better in his health every day than other, his legs swell a little ; everybody here talks of his marrying, as I hear they do in England ; I hope the Parliament will persuade him to it. Pray write to me every post and every thing that is stirring, for it is the only diversion to hear what is said and done in England. I hope you will quickly see Mr. Lowndes, for without it nothing is done."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 24th, V.S., 1700." (VI. 60.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 2. [N.S.] Vorst.—"Here we are in retirement till to-morrow, and in good health, I thank God. I have acquainted His Majesty with the letter I have received from Portugal about Mr. Methuen, and I have orders to write to Mr. Secretary Vernon by this post to have Mr. Methuen recalled, which, I think, His Majesty is the more inclined to out of good husbandry, for he said it was not necessary to have a Minister at that place for the present. I shall send Mr. Secretary word that you will give him the original letter which brings the complaint ; therefore pray do it, keeping a copy. By this time I suppose you will be come from

† The manor of Squeries, Westerham, Kent.

Squirres; pray let me hear how the company likes it. Directions for the enclosed are writ on the outside of it.

"Here is no news that you do not hear from Mr. Blathwayt."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 30 August, V.S., 1700." (VI. 61.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 9. [N.S.] Breda.—"I have yours of the 20th and 22nd August to acknowledge. I had no small satisfaction in retiring to read them out of the little bustle we have here with the Elector's Court and officers. Yesterday the King was at Berge[n-op-Zoom] to visit the fortifications there; it seems to be a very great work, and those that understand it say it will be, when finished, the finest fortified town in Europe. I can better give my opinion of Squirres, and should have been better pleased to have been there. To-morrow the King goes to Grave and from thence to Dieren for a day or two; when we get back to Loo, I shall be inquiring after our journey home, which, I fear, will not be till the middle of next month, English style.

"What Holt said to you I believe to be very true, and I shall take the first opportunity to tell it where it should be known. I have had a letter from Mr. Montague; he does not seem to be of the mind he was when I spoke to him about his own affairs, which I am glad to find. I got my Lord Albemarle to write to the Admiral about the serious affair. I thank you for thinking of my brother; but Sayers's place would bring him too much into the world, unless he could tell better how to behave himself. I hear that Mr. Allworth, Queen Dowager's auditor, is dying; he has some place in the Post Office that may be proper for my brother, or his son, if it can be executed by deputy; pray inquire about it and let me know your opinion of it.

"Knowing your intention of coming over, I thought it was fit to know the King's mind upon it; he has given leave, but it must be so that the business of the Board [of Trade] must not be neglected."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 6th, V.S." (VI. 62.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 14. [N.S.] Dieren.—"I have received your letter of the 29th, after your journey to Squirres. I am very glad Mr. Banks is thought in the wrong, but, I know, you will think me more so when I tell you that I persist in my first design, and desire that the out-building I ordered may go on as fast as it can; my reasons I will tell you when I see you; as for the piece of ground you mention that lies near the ground of the Park, I will buy it if it is fit for me. Dr. Garth has been here, but Dr. Green has the place; the Archbishop's and Chancellor's recommendations could not be withstood; but I have sent the news of it to Dr.

James, who wrote to me about it, and hope to have some merit in this business, though I really think I deserve very little. You sent me word you would leave England in a few days; we shall stay here longer than people imagine, and, if I may advise, I would not have you come till the latter end of the next week for fear the King should think you neglect the business of the Board. By this advice I hope you will not think I have less mind to see you than I always had. I have a great many things to say in answer to your last letter, but I am in such a hurry in expectation of two Electresses, that of Brandenburg and of Hanover, who are coming hither this evening for some days. I believe these German Courts would furnish news for the next post if I had nothing else to say."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 14th, V.S." (VI. 63.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 17. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have yours of the 30th. I am much obliged to you for the care you have of my business with Mr. Lowndes, who, I find, is kind in it. I send you enclosed two blanks to use as there is occasion; if the whole sum is paid at once there will need to write a receipt but upon one of the blanks, the other you will bring me when you come hither. By my last you will think that I had a foresight of my own interest in advising you to stay a little longer in England, but indeed the true reason was that I found the King (when I spoke to him about you) wondered that you thought of coming over, though not at all unwilling that you should come.

"This made me write to you as I did, that by your staying there a little longer no man could say you neglected the business, and then I am sure it is really making your court to have a mind to come into this country. How much my concern would require your staying where you are I cannot tell; I will only desire of you to put my business with Mr. Lowndes in such a method that the payments may not be retarded for want of somebody to act for me. You know the consequence this business is to me, which, I hope, will excuse the trouble I give you in it. The blanks you will make use of as you think fit, but I should be glad if a receipt from a sham person could be taken, for if it was possible, I would not have Mr. Smith know this business.

"I did expect Mr. Secretary's behaviour in the Portugal affair; he says in his letter to me, as if it was not known from whom the complaint came, 'I take the Don [Francisco de Castro] to be the Secretary of State, for I think else I have been in the wrong to have made the step I have'; if you see Mr. Secretary you may tell him that I put the papers relating to this business into Mr. Blathwayt's hands, but I hear His Majesty had not time this post to do anything about them.

"The German Court left us this morning; it has made me wish we had one of our own, which I think is not impossible to be, if rightly managed; but this is under the rose; I believe there is no resolution about the Parliament, nor will be till we are in England.

"I have wrote to Lord Godolphin to come into the Treasury, and then you know how the Privy Seal will be disposed of, but this must not be spoke of. I wish all vacancies were filled, that no more questions may be asked nor wonders made.

"The answer to the foreigners my Lord Albemarle had already seen.

"I say nothing of Squirres, but I am sure when I see you that I shall convince that my first project is best, which I desire to keep to. I wish Mr. Hughes himself does not underhand buy that farm you say will be proper to lay into the Park; I have sent Mr. Girard word that I would have it, as I did to you in my last.

"If Barton is quite well, he may come over with you, if you will be troubled with him. You are right not to say anything to my wife about Mons. Levasor."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 17th, V.S., 1700." (VI. 64.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 20. [N.S.] Paris.—"You know the reason that I did not answer yours which you did me the favour to write from England. I do now begin to think I shall not see you at Loo, having not as yet heard anything of that nature; nor is there any likelihood that you will make me a visit here, since I understand all things go well. I am told the King is to be soon in England, and then we are to see a new scheme. Our friends at St. Germains do please themselves that the next Session will be very troublesome; I hope they will be disappointed. If you will let me hear from you, it will oblige." (VI. 66.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 23. [N.S.] Loo.—"I acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 6th, last post. Mr. Secretary's letter to the King and the affairs in Portugal relating to the Spanish Treaty has made an alteration in the resolution taken about Mr. Methuen; he is now to stay at Lisbon for some time. If this business is known, I believe it will do Mr. Secretary no good. If my former letter is gone to Don Francisco de Castro, pray take care to forward the enclosed, that I may do my endeavour not to pass in those parts for a liar. Mr. Blathwayt writes this post to Mr. Secretary that it is His Majesty's pleasure that my Lord Tankerville has the Privy Seal delivered to him immediately, which if Mr. Secretary does not like, I suppose it will be deferred as

the other business was. Lord Godolphin is to come into the Treasury, but not till the King returns; he desires that the vacancy may be in the Treasury some little time before he goes, in which is the reason that the Privy Seal is given to my Lord Tankerville, but this is *entre nous*.

"If you succeed with the young Lord Exeter, pray let me know it, and I will make your court for it.

"The Parliament is prorogued to a shorter time than the King would have it, but I do not imagine that it will hasten his return a day soon.

"My purchases at Squirres, as you say, may stay till my return, but I hope I shall find everything finished I ordered before I came away. I shall have occasion of wings, notwithstanding the outbuildings that are now making, but I am sure I shall convince you when I see you that wings can never do well in the front of the house, but of all this when we meet. I shall expect all the draughts with you hither.

"I do not write to Mr. Lowndes about my business in the Treasury, but depend upon your making my court to him.

"If Mr. Alsworth's place is in the gift of the Treasury, I never design speaking for it..

"We are rid of all our Princes and Princesses; I am told the young Prince of Hanover is to come hither, but I think it is a secret.

"Lord Albemarle is gone to The Hague for three or four days; he had better have stayed here.

"Next week I go for two or three days to Amsterdam *pour tuer le temps;* I will make another journey thither when you come.

"Lord Portland is preparing for England. I have received a letter from Mr. Stanian; pray assure him that I will do what I can to serve him in the business he wrote about. I suppose the time of your coming away draws nigh: till I know it for certain I will write to you; therefore take care to leave somebody to receive my letters in case they miss of you, and settle some correspondent to send all the news when you are here. I do assure you it will be a great satisfaction to you. I know not if I told you I find in a letter from Lord Villiers that he is very desirous to leave Angers. I suppose it is his own fickle humour, or I should have heard from Mr. Inglis if he had found any other place fitter for him to spend his time in."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 7th, V.S." (VI. 67.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Sept. 27. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have received your letter of the 10th. I find by it that the King is expected in England the 15th of next month, our style, to give orders for the Scotch Parliament; it is very right to have it so, but I see no likelihood of his being at The Hague till that time;

you know how long he commonly stays there, so that, if the wind was at command, I do not see that he is likely to be in England sooner than the latter end of the next month, our style. This you must keep to yourself, but you may take your measures from it for your own journey, whether you will come with the yachts that come for the King or in the packet boat before, or whether you will think it worth your coming at all, or no. I leave it wholly to you. I think the thing pretty indifferent as to your interest here. You know I shall be always glad to see you, but in this I would really have you do what you have most mind to, and that will be best. You know I am free with you enough to tell you if it would not be so; therefore pray follow your inclinations, and what you think most proper yourself, whatever you do, I will answer shall be well taken here.

"The giving the Privy Seal to my Lord Tankerville is deferred till the King's return, therefore I hope you have not spoke of it. Here is no news.

"I think there are too many officers unprovided for to have the government of Jersey given to any but an officer. I am obliged to you for your thoughts, but pray find out something more fit.

"Your friend Congreve is here."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 21, O.S." (VI. 69).

THE [EARL OF JERSEY] to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1700, Sept. 30. [N.S.] Dieren.—"I have received your letter of the 15th. Though you know I am not formal, I must thank you for the care you have had of my business in the Treasury. I do not send you the letter you write for, not doubting but that the blanks I have sent you will serve instead of it. I desire to know in what species you receive the sum. I cannot tell how to dispose of it till I come. If Farley wants 500*l.*, you may let him have it.

"I think I have given such directions already for Squirres that I need say no more of it till I return.

"I wrote you word in my last how indifferent I thought your coming hither was, though I should be always very glad to see you; but since your last I am wholly of opinion that you are to stay where you are, and I hope this will come time enough to prevent your coming hither, should you have any thoughts of it, though I must own that it is very hard that one must comply with a prating, malicious world. I reckon that we shall be with you about this time month. I suppose we should not stay here so long if my swager was not gone before to give instructions for the Scotch Parliament. This report will do him no good, therefore pray take care not to be the author of it. The report that you write about Laloe is not true, he is just what he was when you saw him."

Endorsed :—"Answered the 24, O.S." (VI. 71.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 4. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have yours of the 17th past. Since the blanks I sent you will not do, I have enclosed to you a letter to Mr. Lowndes; pray let him know that I had sent it upon the first requiring it, but that I thought the blanks would be better liked. You find him my friend, therefore pray say to him what you think proper on that matter, for I think that my letter is not to be filled with compliments, but a bare direction to him to pay you the money as you will find it.

"I say nothing to you of your journey hither; my last will have told you my thoughts on it, and I conclude your staying where you are. Though you make not this journey, I shall depend on your making one to Squirres as soon as I get into England.

"I have had a letter from Mr. Powis with an account of my concerns in the Treasury, and shall answer it.

"Since the Don [Francisco de Castro] is not a Secretary of State, I hope he will be found to be a Minister, or else I fear I have been too forward. Some I know will excuse it, though not Mr. Secretary. This business as well as the 500*l.* will certainly be known by your friend and others in a little time.

"I find that you talk in England much of a Queen, but your friend may defer liquoring his boots, and I shall return with the King; before this matter is resolved on I believe you and I shall have time enough to talk of it.

"This day the yachts are sent for, and this day fortnight the King leaves this place, stays two or three days at Sousdyke, and then to The Hague, and eight or ten days afterwards you may expect us in England, if the wind is fair; till then you will continue writing to me all the news you hear, especially of those you mentioned in your last. I am told that Sincerity is not satisfied with those we call his friends; a little more of love and politics and the gay young gentleman.

"I sent you word before that the alterations were delayed till the King's return."

Endorsed :—"Answered 1st, V.S., 1700." (VI. 72.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 7. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have received your letter of the 20th past, and take it now for granted that we shall not see you here; our time of being here is now so short that your coming would scarce be worth while, but I cannot but observe that we live in a strange age or a more strange nation, that the most indifferent actions of a man's life is now made criminal by one party of men or other. I will not moralize, for that will give me spleen, though I have nothing to tell you. I think I have sent you word already what we are to do to the very day of our depart; while the King is at Sousdyke I intend to make my journey to

Amsterdam. If you want anything from this country, let me know it; I will buy it as well as I can, or take care to bring it to you, if you have already intrusted anybody with the buying it. Pray keep as well as you can with your melancholy friend, and insinuate what I told you of Mr. Swag[er]; but take care of yourself in it. Farewell; I long to see you at Squirres."

Endorsed :—"Answered 7, V.S., 1700." (VI. 73.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 11. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have received your letter of the 24th past. I will now tell the King the reason of your not coming, which, I am sure, will be approved on. The time of our being with you draws now so near that I have little to say to you; news here is none but what you will find in sprightly Yard's *Gazette*. I know not if he will have heard that the King of Spain is very ill; the French report it confidently, which makes me hope it is not worse than the other fits he has had. Perhaps you may hear (for want of other news) that my Lord Albemarle is not well; it is nothing but a spleen, not warrantable, of which you shall know more when I see you, but must not speak of it now nor then.

"I am sorry the Admiral trifles, but how to mend it?" (VI. 74.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 14. [N.S.] Loo.—"I have received your letter of the 29th past with your new book; the preface is too obliging to the Court; but let malice reign, it is no matter.

"I think of nothing but quickly leaving this place, and going with you to Squirres. The King goes from hence on Monday next, and I to Amsterdam, and shall meet the Monarch Thursday at The Hague, where I suppose we shall be stifled with Princes and Princesses. I write to you because I will, for I have nothing either to tell or bid you, unless it is to bid you wish for a good wind about a fortnight hence." (VI. 75.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey.

1700, Oct. 3[–14]. London.—"Duncomb after all has lost his election and Abney is chosen. The heats in the city in this conjuncture are very great, Simpson, the Baron of the 'Chequer, at the swearing of the Sheriffs the other day, instead of praising them, as is usual, made a violent panegyric upon Duncomb. When they were drunk together in the afternoon, Sir Harry Furnace, one of the Sheriffs, called the Baron names, and Sir Will[iam] Ashurst asked him if my Lord Sunderland had not made him the speech, and Duncomb given him money for pronouncing it. Some of Duncomb's

friends say that they can produce a letter from some of the Lords Justices; they name my Lord Marlborough, as if their choosing Duncomb would be agreeable to the Court; this passes for Lord Sunderland's work, and honest Harry is heartily cursed, but the complaint which is founded upon most reason is that in all former elections it was usually a little insinuated what party would be agreeable to the Court, but in this election not one word was any way intimated to them; this, I am afraid, had too much truth in it. I am told your Secretary of State trimmed extremely as to his opinion in this case, and I know that he was received coldly enough in the city some days since.

"But after all, for God's sake let somebody or other be ordained to rule us, for at present your Godolphins and Montagus equally deny that they have anything to do with us, and I think we are likely to fall between two, though we might crush them both if we would act with vigour.

"I think my friend might be called back with good management, *il cloche entre deux*: I have let fall Swager's matter so to him that I cannot be suspected.

"I have that sum locked up in my escritoire, having given my receipt for it, and said something as from you to L[owndes] proportionable to his genius, though not, I think, to yours.

"For God's sake come home quickly, I have none from you. Lady Mary, you see, writes very well, and is a very good child. My lady is at the Duke of Ormond's, who treats her as if he were in love with her." *Copy.* (XII. 450.)

Matthew Prior to [J.] Talbot.

1700, Oct. 4[–15]. [London].—"You did well not to date the last letter you wrote me, for it cannot rise up in judgment against me that I have not sooner answered it. Not writing to my friends is a fault which I wish I could as easily mend as confess. My goods are now coming from France, and I hope in a little time to open my bundle and give every man his due; pray signify as much to His Grace of Somerset.

"My intended journey to Holland is overruled by those who know best what is proper for me, so that, till His Majesty's return, I enjoy that leisure and freedom of which I have scarce had a taste for these last ten years. If I had my dear Talbot with me to share the blessing, it would be infinitely yet more valuable; in case I cannot have it here, I don't know but that I may take a step to Cambridge; but this is as yet undetermined and only said to yourself.

"We have the Oxford Verses upon the Duke of Gloucester's death; there are some very good copies; the boys at Westminster intend to write upon the same subject; there will be some very good verses; but I believe some of the most poetical of our school-fellows, even up to our own standing,

are at work for them. I thank you for those you sent me of Dibbons's composing; the versification is very pretty, the Latin sometimes hard, the sense, I suppose, dictated by the Bishop of Salisbury's son. Pray let Dibbons not talk nonsense in the best chosen words imaginable, and remind him of Busbey's old rule to write his invention in English.

"There is nothing that presses his making much haste with the journey-work he has from me in his hands. Tonson is in Holland, and till his return I could give no direction about the printing it, if it were finished; when he does come, a very severe jury will be empanelled to sit upon it, Doctor Knipe, the foreman, you (if you are in town), Smaldridge, Hannes, Stepney, Portlock, Freind, and Charles Boyle. Tell Dibbons so as that it may not discourage him, for, however the poem is in the English, I think he has done it so very well in Latin that a little looking it over may make it the best thing in that kind that has been written since Buchanan. I shall be very glad to see the translator with the translation, and I hope in a very few years to hear that he is as great a master of Grotius as he is at present of Virgil.

"I hear it said as from some of my acquaintance as if I were resolved not to serve the University in a future Parliament. I neither said or wrote anything of this kind to anybody but yourself, and to everybody that had spoke to me of it here I have thought fit to give no other answer, but such a one as might shew the great respect I had for the University, and the true desire I had to serve that body upon all occasions, and yet might leave me a liberty of retiring, and not exposing my friends and myself in case I thought I might meet a repulse in this undertaking. To put the thing in its right light, and give you my real sentiments of it, it will be necessary to recapitulate that, whilst I was in France, some of my friends from the University wrote me word that I was looked upon by them and others as a person fit to represent them in Parliament. In saying this, I presume they had an eye to having been from the age of sixteen and to my continuing till that of thirty-four a member of that community, not a pensioner or fellow-commoner, but scholar of the house and fellow of a college, my name constantly in the books and my correspondence with my friends kept up, as well as to my having acted abroad in several stations so as to capacitate me in all probability to represent so illustrious a body. To this I add that I understood they would have some person whose principle it was to represent, as occasion might require, their steadiness to support the true rights of the English monarchy and the real preservation of theirs and the nation's liberty. On these considerations I was induced to think that they did me a great deal of honour when some of the Heads had me in their thoughts, and as they please to continue that favourable opinion of me, I shall always most readily obey any summons they may have for me, be it to

promote anything here for the interest of any peculiar person or society, or in general to assert their rights in the great Council of the Nation, as they may judge me worthy. This is the sentiments I was in when I was last at Cambridge, and in which I think I shall always persevere. I would no more plead my merit to be a Parliament man than Coriolanus would shew his wounds to be Consul, and my proceeding in and desisting from my first intention will be wholly governed by the encouragement or coldness which I may receive from the University. In one word I desire with all my soul to serve them whenever it is proposed to me, so as that the thing may seem practicable. But I should be very sorry if from that desire I should only make a foolish figure, and come back again to shew my friends at Court that I had not enow of that kind in the University to sustain my interest. But of this we shall have leisure enough to reason; in the meantime you may either shew this letter to the Vice-Chancellor, to Dr. Bently, to Dr. James, to Doctor Covel, to Dr. Richardson, to Dr. Nurse, and the rest of our friends at Cambridge, or you may say out of it what you think proper, that we may take the measures of our boat before we put to sea, and then you may pilot me as you please. I am sorry from my heart at our poor friend Hilton's death. I have only to add my service to all my friends, and till they die or I die I will continue truly theirs." *Copy.* (XII. 453.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 19. [N.S.] Amsterdam.—" What can I write from hence but that actions fall upon the Spanish news; that monarch is here concluded dead; there is too much reason to fear it, but the news when I came from Loo was that he was desperately ill, and had had the extreme unction. Quiros's letters of the 1st instant say he was something better, which are the last I have heard of; but I am here in a wilderness, and shall get out of it on Thursday. I have your letter of the 1st; another post is come in this morning, but those letters I shall not have till I meet Blathwayt at The Hague. I wonder at your friend's talking to you as he does, I believe that word *slavery* was by way of pump; pray take care. I think of Swager as you do. The Alderman will be Mayor, and had like to have been hanged two years ago: what a nation! But to discuss these matters would engage me in as long a letter as yours was, which was very entertaining to me; what news I know I tell you, and begin with what is most grateful, which is the King's health. I really think him as well as he has been for many years past, and likely to continue so, if a Parliamentary spleen does not alter him. When I left him he was of the mind to have the Parliament prorogued to the 20th of the next month, and did intend to send orders about it. I suppose this will put an end to the discourse of a new Parliament. All is well again with Lord Albemarle.

I wish it may last, for I am heartily weary of these unreasonable quarrels.

"Mrs. Humis has been some time at The Hague; what she does there I cannot tell, but I do not doubt but that she will bilk some half-a-dozen of her friends of a ten pound business, and then be gone.

"I will certainly be mindful of old Sir Edward and of everything else that is *your concern.*

"Pray tell Mr. Powis that I have received his letter with my accounts, and that I am likely to draw upon him from hence." (VI. 76.)

The [Earl of Jersey] to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 22. [N.S.] Hague.—"At my arrival here last night I met with yours of the 3rd. The wind is now fair, but we must stay till Wednesday, and then longer if the wind changes. I am glad to hear your politics, and when we meet will reason upon them; in the meantime the world is mad and knave. Barton is arrived with the draught; I own I like it; what I have already done would not hinder my executing of it, if there was not a worse impediment, which we must strive to overcome this winter. The Hague is as it was and not worth speaking of. I want you to see pictures. Pray take care of your strong box. I find you know my weakness, or else you would never have sent me Miss Mary's writing, though I must own it is very pretty for her age. I hope you do more for her at Knoles, where she wants your kindness more. What means His Grace? pray take care he does not wrong me. I had as good bid you farewell as write such stuff, and leave the uncertainty of the King of Spain's health, and the impatience of the French, to Blathwayt and Yard." (VI. 79.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, Nov. 3. [N.S.] Paris.—"I have writ several times to you concluding you was at Loo, but I find your journey did not succeed no more than mine. I hope now you will renew your correspondence, that I may see what before was a sort of obligation, that you still remember your friends in France. Upon the death of Mr. Sayers, I did desire the favour of my Lord Chamberlain to lay before the King a person I recommended to succeed him, and the answer my Lord made me was that the King would do nothing in it till his return, and that there he would be glad to receive my orders. This I take to be a civil way of denying my request, especially since I find in all the prints Mons. Lalo is to have it. This may look well to England for ought I know, and for my part I am indifferent; that which I would willingly be satisfied of is whether this matter is determined; if so, I would neither press the King nor give my Lord Chamberlain any further trouble. I

believe you have now a great Court, and there is no want of pretenders to the Privy Seal or the Secretary's Office." (VI. 87.)

J. Talbot to Matthew Prior.

1700, Oct. 26[–Nov. 6]. Cambridge.—" I should be ashamed, my dear friend, to own the receipt of yours by the last post before I had answered the former, had not an unusual glut of business (of which yours has been a good part) employed me some time before and ever since that came to my hand. While the season lasted at Newmarket I was plagued with visitants from thence who came to see King's College Chapel, etc. When I thought this fatigue over, Mr. Boyle (I thank him) sent me Captain Delaval with a brace of Mahometans from Machanes, to whom I was obliged to show our University (or rather them to it). These and twenty other necessary impediments (which 'twould be as troublesome to repeat as it was to undergo), together with the care of settling poor J. Hilton's affairs with his pupils, etc., devoured a great part of my time: the rest has been spent much more agreeably in your service. I communicated as much of your letter as might be convenient to the persons mentioned in it (except Dr. Nourse, who has not been here since Midsummer, and is not expected before Christmas). Those who are most cordially yours wish with me that you had leisure and inclination to visit this place, to revive your interest among your former acquaintance, and to increase it by new; which is the only certain expedient for working out friend Torry, whose frequent residence here and constant application to our young masters has made him very popular among them. These make too great a number at elections to be neglected in the interim. The authority of their superiors, the merits of competitors, or the interest of the University, Church and Nation all put together do not go so far with them as the single motive of a personal acquaintance, and I never knew any man but Mr. Boyle (whose interest here, between friends, depends wholly upon the Chancellor) succeed without it. When the project of your being set up for our Burgess was first proposed to you from hence, you may remember 'twas upon the prospect not only of your settling here in England, but of your continuing so long as the Statutes of your College would permit a gremial of this body; and all those who made that proposal were then and are still confident that title would set Mr. Prior upon an equal foot here with any competitor, provided he should think fit to employ the means which have been since recommended to him. I dare assure you that those Heads whom I then mentioned, and some others whom you have since seen, are resolved to serve your interest so far as their own will go: and 'twere to be wished that Masters upon such occasions had the same influence in their Colleges as Princes have in their Courts. Their number, you know, is sixteen, and the votes

they can command may upon a general computation amount to five times that number, which will come to about one-third of the electors; the rest must be gained by personal application and the solicitation of private friends, letters from patrons, relations, etc., all which must be diligently used some considerable time before the election, which cannot be secured to the greatest merit without them, especially in the case of a new competitor. Thus you see, dear Matt, that your appearance for the Burgesship was and is still proposed to you with the cordial assurances of their assistance who first recommended it to you, and that this assistance is sufficient to give you fair footing, but the success of it will depend very much upon your joining with them in your endeavours to improve the interest they have set on foot. I hope I need not assure you of my best services among all my acquaintance. But I must needs tell you that 'tis necessary you should have a professed agent in your own College, who should make it his business to keep up your interest there, and to visit for you elsewhere while you are absent; for, though I may and will do you all private services where I have any interest, yet you know I cannot with decency to my Lord Duke of Somerset undertake the public solicitation of any other interest than Mr. Boyle's, which is the only one he has hitherto recommended or given me leave to appear in. I have secured you several votes in our College, where (I may venture to tell you) the Master has but little interest, and some I am promised in the town, but I want assistance to solicit on your behalf a hundred people whom I do not know, and this must be done, *secundum formam*, from St. John's College. Nourse should be the man, but he is as little resident as Your Worship. I am very much a stranger in your College, and wish you could direct me to someone whom we might intrust with the management of your affairs there. Methinks something should be done while Hammond is away, who is the idol of that Society, but I hope you will not suffer him to be any longer the oracle of this University. In that, dear Sir, he must be defeated by his own talent, industry. The scheme we laid last winter must be reviewed and put in practice immediately; letters must be written hither by your friends, and visits made by yourself either now, or (if you shall think it more convenient) while Hammond is confined to his attendance on the House. What instructions you will give me during my stay here, which will be till Christmas, I will faithfully obey, being very ready to act for you, but at present more desirous (for your sake as well as my own) to act with you. If you would have a list of all the Masters of Arts in each College, I will procure one, and will endeavour to inform myself which way particular persons may be influenced.

"Dibbons, like a true Westminster, defers the finishing of his exercise to the last minute. He has very near done the

whole poem ; and in those pieces which you have not seen I find several masterly strokes, but such as want the last hand to polish them, which I believe must be yours, though we shall impanel a petty jury of some schoolfellows to sit upon him before he is returned to your grand jury ; in the meantime I wish Culprit a good deliverance. He tells me just now that he will certainly wait on you with his translation within a fortnight. I had much rather you should come down for a fortnight or three weeks and read them here. Such a journey might conduce very much to the improvement of your health and interest ; I wish I might say as much to your satisfaction as 'twill be to ours. Pray visit Dr. Bentley, who is now at St. James's, and will be here immediately after his election to the Vice-Chancellorship, which will be within a week. See Dr. Oxenden, and make him your friend. I think, since your affair has been mentioned (as I told you) to the King and declared here, we are too far gone to make a retreat, especially so long as we have hopes of victory. I cannot yet learn where Dr. Nourse is, but will inquire further, and if you think fit, I will take care of the conveyance of your letter to him. What if you bestowed a vacant hour in criticizing your *Secular Ode* before 'tis reprinted, and touching up some passages which only yourself can mend ? I suppose this place in the fifteenth page was false printed,

' And Schools profess our Tongue thro' every land
That *have* (for has) invoked his aid, etc. '

I wish, my dear friend, that your *new Phœnix* in the next page were a little more suitably supported than by *young columns ;* judge you whether these two metaphors do not come too thick upon one another in expressing the same thing by two different images in the same sentence ; Whitehall is a *Phœnix* at one end of the verse and a *fabric* at t'other. I am apt to think that with a little alteration you might better reconcile *expanded wings* both with the bird and the building. I don't think this is English :—

' Let a new Phœnix her young columns rear,
As may the greatness of his reign support.'

This I take to be the only exceptionable passage in the whole poem, and wish it were better understood by me or expressed by you. If you will order the printing of the poem while I am here between this and Christmas, I will take care to correct the errors of the press. Send word whether Dibbons shall come to you, or you to us. You will do well to send the Duke of Somerset's prints to his housekeeper at Northumberland House, and better to send His Grace notice of it by to-morrow's post ; the housekeeper's name is Bridgewater, to whom if you send the letter and prints, he will take care of both. My Lord is now in Dorsetshire. I have indifferent health, and wish you better. A dose of Ipecac and Cambridge air would set you right for this, and, I hope, many winters. I will send you next Wednes-

day by Mr. Stepney's Whitworth (who is chosen Fellow here) a little *Horace.* I have put his life before the text in this edition, and recommend to your remembrance an expression of Augustus's which you will find in it, *Horatii Flacci ut mei esto memor.* I wish you would order my friend and your humble servant, old Elzevir, to recommend this impression in his namesake's types to Leers of Rotterdam, so that he may take off a number of copies, which shall be afforded at a reasonable price. The book will not be published these ten days. I am my own bookseller, and without Jacob Tonson's assistance have already six hundred copies bespoken by the schoolmasters and tutors. Farewell, dear Matt; be as careful of your health and interest as you will always find your, etc.

Postscript.—"I desired Bedell Martin to present you and Mr. Stepney with our lamentable *Threnodia,* but I find by the Vice-Chancellor that he has turned my compliment into his own.

"Bid Tonson get ready paper for the *Secular Poem.*" (VI. 83.)

The Earl of Manchester to Matthew Prior.

1700, Dec. 19. [N.S.] Paris.—"I was surprised to find by yours of the 18th that you was still at London, having then directed two of mine to Brussels, which I suppose you have since received. You may easily imagine how I am looked upon at Court now, though I carry myself so that, whatever resolution the King does take, they will not wonder either way, which makes them not know what to think; but now Mons. Tallard is with you it must come to some declaration, else he will return; for they are high enough here to resent it, and I believe we are able to make them very uneasy, were we but united and as willing; I have enclosed two letters from Brac[onier] which I have had some time; but this comes by one that belongs to me, else he desired they should not be sent; he owns in Holland he received six hundred *livres;* which he spent in his journey, though he had money from me when he went; he presses me to write to Lord Albemarle, who, he says, promised his arrears should be paid for the year last past. What use he has been of, you know best; but it is certain he can be of little now, unless he has wherewithal to live, which I am confident he has not. I cannot tell, but it would be convenient to encourage him, especially if we are like to break with France; but you know him much better; he talks of a correspondent, who will also expect something. Pray speak to my Lord Albemarle, and see whether he is to have anything or no. I hope you will be so kind as to let me hear from you what is doing, and I do assure you I do not care who governs, so the King's affairs go well. In due time I may be remembered, but I often think of your saying that abroad one is always forgot though one writes every post; it may be to little purpose. I hear one

Dormer has bought the exempt's place in the Yeomen of the Guard : *chi vuol patienza.*" (VI. 91.)

Dr. Humphrey Gower to Matthew Prior.

1700, Dec. 11[–22]. Ely.—" As concerning you declaration of your purpose at the election for burgesses, I wish you all the success your heart desires, though I know you will not expect any assistance from me that is not fairly consistent with my engagements, which I take to be the substance of what I said at that time when you were pleased to enter into some discourse about that matter.

" Sir, you cannot but be sensible that I have a real respect and affection for you. The first buddings of those hopes, which have since so spread and flourished with universal praise, passed not unobserved by me. It is with great satisfaction that I find my conduct in relation to your concerns here in your absence now justified if not applauded by several that then thought otherwise of it. You are a member of this Society ; and make the most of that, Sir, with all my heart, on this or any other occasion. But, Sir, I am of the same opinion I was when you discoursed me on this subject. I would not have you appear without a fair prospect of success. I say, as I did then, that (in my opinion) a competition if defeated (especially with great odds) will be of no honour to you, nor in the least smooth the way for better success another time. I may be allowed to know the University pretty well, and I hope you have no temptation to suspect the sincerity of my friendship to yourself. I may be mistaken, but I think I have reason for what I say. You had better decline than venture the competition, unless you have such a view as I mentioned. You speak of friends that manage your interest here ; you best know who they are, but I wonder we hear nothing of the success of their management. I do not find that the interest of either of our present representatives lessens in the least, nor that your name has been set up, or much solicitation used ; but that perhaps will not appear till nearer the occasion for it. That is not my business.

" As for what you can expect from me I will be very plain, as becomes me. I should be very loth to do anything to the prejudice of Mr. Boyle (whom I honour), and more so to be obliged to give my vote against you ; but from my engagements to Mr. Hammond I cannot recede. He was originally of our College, lived here as fellow-commoner with great reputation several years. Since his leaving it I have had great correspondence with him, and a friendship and familiarity has been for divers years (before his appearing as a candidate here) set on foot and cultivated between us. His conduct in the House of Commons has been generally approved by the University, which has had several occasions to observe his conduct and to experience his zeal for the

interests of it. He is represented to us as one steady and unbiassed, led blindfold by no interest, party or popularity, but acting and voting whether with these or those as becomes an Englishman, faithful to the establishment in Church and State as it now stands. And thus, I doubt not, would you steer if in such a capacity. But, my friend, I know you will not desire me causelessly to desert my friend, nor change lightly, or discover levity and inconstancy. It is not a distinction about *gremial*, etc., that would justify such a weakness. These elections ought not to go by a kind of propriety, as if an admission or country ought to cancel or supersede all other considerations whatsoever. If such things prevail too much in other places, that will be no argument to be used to such men as should make a corporation of scholars. And here, Sir, it is reasonable for me to advise (if that may be allowed me) that you judge not hastily of this College. I can't tell how your managers report of it. 'Tis true your being a Fellow (as I took notice in our conference) seems to give advantage, and would (considering your other qualifications) without question bring over the whole body of this Society to your interests if no engagements, strong and powerful, had gotten possession. Whether that be the case now, I believe you are more likely to know than I. For, Sir, that is the next thing I am to say, that I am no stickler. They that know my methods will testify I never visit or solicit, I constantly leave the Fellows to themselves, taking them to be able to judge and choose for themselves, so that it frequently happens that our votes in the Schools go several ways, and I am never offended at it. I can't say that I ever got Mr. Boyle or Mr. Hammond one vote. I am sure I will not endeavour in the least by deed or word to make you, Sir, lose one, I always reserving to myself the free disposal of my own. If you proceed in your purpose (as your present declaration as well as that formerly cause me to expect), you shall find me very kind and tender of your interests, and then you cannot be offended at my steadiness in adhering to the engagements specified in this letter, and plainly enough intimated to you when we discoursed this matter; for what I write now at large is but the same thing that I expressed then discernibly enough to one of much less penetration than yourself.

"Now, Sir, I have done, and shall make no apology for anything I have writ; I leave it to justify itself, how hastily soever it be drawn up, to one of your justice and candour. Whether your appearing on this occasion will shock Mr. Boyle or Mr. Hammond most I profess I cannot foresee. All I wish is that it may no way prejudice yourself, for I heartily wish you all honour and success, though I am not at liberty to advance it on this occasion in every way and in all particulars as I desire. But be that as it can, it is impossible that I should cease to be, Dear Sir, your very affectionate faithful friend and servant."

Postscript.—" The respect shown to Dr. Nurse is no more than he deserves, perhaps few in England merit encouragement better. He is my friend, I love and respect him. I doubt not but he will lay hold of any opportunities to express his sense of what you have done for him in this particular.

" You can, I know, excuse this hasty scribble as well as the extravagant length of this letter."

" You may believe it, that I do not use it : when I have satisfied myself, I am not accustomed to laborious endeavours to inform others of the reasonableness of my measures, unless they appear very liable to be misunderstood by wise and good men ; and that in matters of influence and importance my age and retirement give me more title and warrant for such liberty, now every day more and more." (VI. 92.)

Charles Jervas to Matthew Prior

1700, Christmas Day. N.S. Rome.—" The Pope's benediction to a devout pilgrim, the morrow's matrimony to a well-stricken virgin, your letters to C. J. equally welcome. The poem will be so too, though Conway misses it, for the poor doctor left his skeleton at Naples, as I told Mr. Drift some months ago. The holy door's being shut yesterday puts the nation upon motion, most of them to the Carnival at Venice. Lady Salisbury, followed at a modest lover's distance by Colonel Josselyn. Lord Hastings has been only as far as Malta, stays here some weeks, and in that time resolves at his rate—Will Cecil is expected back shortly from the same tour.

" I am glad to hear that you propagate the virtuoso faith ; I shall endeavour to confirm your disciples in it by disposing of their money with all possible care. I must take the more time because I can't yet guess at Mr. Montague's *gusto*. Some general hints as to subjects would be of service, and it is convenient too, to order your or their banker to send me a credit to Leghorn, that cash may be ready upon occasion, for I am not here as at Paris, where I could take up hundreds sterling without staying for bills or letters. However, so soon as I light of anything for their purpose, [I] shall not fail to secure it. I wrote once about Theodon the sculptor, but that affair is over ; his present Holiness is a lover of art, and consequently does not let him leave this town. The fifty guineas for the *Holy Family* came seasonably to relieve my honest correspondent Norris. If the naked boy (Christ) bought at Paris may hang in its room, he has my orders to send it to your hotel—'tis in a handsome frame. If some other of your acquaintance would throw away a few loose guineas upon it, perhaps forty or fifty would not be ill bestowed, and to tell you the truth I am so intent upon going through a regular course of study, and so pleased with the opportunity, that my old collection shall go off as fast as I can conveniently ; I purchased several pieces and prints, and

was very fond of that, as necessary for future study, which by my application here will be altogether useless. I have not yet touched a pencil in Rome, and intend this year too for drawings and then something of Guido, Titian or Correggio for the colouring, etc. All the pleasure I have now is to confront the former half-year with the latter, and if I can make a progress answerable to my industry, something may be done. There are two or three damned things that disturb me mightily in the Poets. *O imitatores servum pecus! Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.* And a poor comfort at last:—*Magnis tamen excidit ausis.* (VI. 94.)

ROBERT SANDERSON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1702–3, Jan. 28[–Feb. 8].—"My affairs have but a very melancholy aspect at present, for I'm out of all manner of business, by reason Mr. Rymer is out of that which his late Majesty in his Council commanded him to attend. I have been for several years assisting to him therein, and with how much diligence and fidelity I have served him in it he will be ready to satisfy any person shall please to give himself the trouble of asking the question."

"I make my humble application to you to save a sinking person, who, besides an eternal gratitude, shall take no little pride in owning you my patron. I'm abundantly convinced that it is absolutely in your power; and your character, besides my own particular knowledge of your kind and generous disposition, will not suffer me to doubt of your good inclination to assist the distressed; give me leave then to make it my humble request to you to help me into any employ."

Postscript.—"If you please to send me your commands to wait upon you, I lodge at Mr. Jeoffs, against the Three Cups Tavern in Holborn." (VII. 8.)

The DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1704, August 3. [N.S.] Friedberg.—[See Marlborough's Letters and Dispatches, ed. Murray, i. 384.] (VII. 9.)

A[DAM] C[ARDONNEL] to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1704, August 7. [N.S.] Camp at Hoghenwort [Hohenwart].—"We have made no great progress since our success at Schellenberg, except it be burning and destroying the Elector's country, wherein we have not been sparing; our last march was all in fire and smoke. We are now going to besiege Ingoldstadt, and I wish to God it were well over, that I might get safe out of this country." (VII. 10.)

A[DAM] C[ARDONNEL] to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1704, Oct. 31. [N.S.] Camp at Trèves.—"Last night late I received your packet, and at the same time presented

the enclosed to my Lord Duke, who would have returned you his thanks himself, if he had not been obliged to be on horseback early this morning. His Grace therefore commands me to do it, and to let you know at the same time that, though some people may have endeavoured to give him wrong impressions of you, it has not had the least effect with him, and that he is sure if your heart had not gone hand in hand with the poet, you could not have said so much in his favour beyond his merit, and that he will endeavour to deserve your friendship, and that you may rely entirely on his upon all occasions. Thus much for my Lord Duke, being, as near as I can remember, his own expressions.

"And now I must thank you likewise for your merry letter. I have been too busy to have been in that 'Qu' for many a month, and a journey of a thousand miles more at least before I get to The Hague will keep me low enough till I meet you at your headquarters in Duke Street over a bottle.

"Adieu, my dear friend, I am so starved with cold that I can hardly hold my pen." (VII. 11.)

The Duke of Marlborough to Matthew Prior.

1706, June 14. [N.S.] A[e]rze[e]le.—"Your letter of congratulation on a late victory, which I meet in my way to The Hague, afforded me a very agreeable entertainment, for which I return you thanks, and pray you will believe me always with truth your most humble servant." (VII. 13.)

Adam Cardonnel to Matthew Prior.

1706, June 17. [N.S.] Camp at A[e]rze[e]le.—"My good friend, believe me the Devil has no hand in what we are doing; we are guided by a better genius, which, I hope, will still help us to mumble and humble the rogues till their great monarch is brought to know himself.

"Your letter has been carefully delivered to my Duke as you desire, and enclosed you have his thanks." (VII. 14.)

Sir Thomas Hanmer to Matthew Prior.

1706, July 18[-29]. Euston.—"I am so much obliged to you for a present I received this week that I must return you my thanks, though I am not judge enough to hope you'll accept my commendation. Were I a General, I should desire to preserve the favour of your muse next to Fortune's, and I will not doubt but they who could perform the actions will know how to value such a record of them.

"But now your journey to Parnassus is over, pray change horses and come into a thicker air. Since your Pegasus has carried you so well, you need not doubt your mare, for you keep one as idle in the stable as the other; and if a fond muse will follow you on foot hither, perhaps we may show you as proper shades for you to converse in as any other place.

"To be more in earnest with you, I hope you will not forfeit the character of an honest man, and how much that is engaged in your coming to Euston need not be told you, since I see by your letter you remember you promised it. You may be sure no man alive would be more welcome, and I hope you have nothing to do but to give your brethren warning and claim their attendance at the Board [of Trade] whilst you take your turn abroad." (VII. 15.)

[Dr. Humphrey Gower] to Matthew Prior.

1706, August 9[–20]. Thriplow, near Cambridge.—Thanking Prior for his poem, and adding:—"It continues still to be the most agreeable entertainment I meet with in this pleasant place, which affords me the best I enjoy anywhere. I offer the same to my visitants too, who accept it as such, for though they come no strangers to your Ode, it is fresh entertainment to read it again, repeat out of it, and discourse concerning it. The particular interest I have always claimed in the Author, and my having it from his own hands seem to allow me a more than ordinary concern in the applause and praises that are paid him on this occasion. It would be strange if such a performance should not meet with more than praise expressed by words, or not procure to its author something else besides honour and immortality." (VII. 18.)

Sir Thomas Hanmer to Matthew Prior.

1706, August 23[–Sept. 3]. Euston.—"As 'tis natural for people under the expectation of pleasure to be very exact in computing time, I reckon now the full account of days is up, which by your last letter was fixed for your Suffolk journey. And of this it is the more necessary to remind you, lest Mrs. Ramsay's flight from us should be earlier than your motion towards us, and I should be loth you should lose so material a part of your entertainment here.

"By all the accounts we have from your famous city we conclude it at this time not better peopled than Carolina or the poorest colony under the compassion of your Board, and yet the solitude of it has charms enough with you to make the parting grievous. How little hopes, then, must we have of you if you should stay to see the delights of Bartholomew Fair open upon you! how impossible will it be to divorce you from it then! Be resolute, then, and go not into the temptations of that inviting place. Think how much your honour is concerned in keeping your word, and how much it becomes a man to renounce his pleasure for the sake of that. I hope you have no particular mistress new enough and fond enough to detain you there, and I am sure you have here a sincere friend and a most faithful humble servant." (VII. 19.)

ADAM CARDONNEL to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1707, July 14. [N.S.] Camp at Meldert.—"I have deferred answering your letter of the 13th past, O.S., in hope of sending you one at the same time from my Lord Duke, or at least to have told you that he had complied with your request in recommending the contents of yours to him to my Lord Treasurer; but am sorry I can do neither, perceiving His Grace does not think it proper at this juncture, though I may venture to assure you it is not want of friendship or good will, for when I first heard of yours and my master Blathwayt's remove, I took the liberty to tell His Grace in the most friendly manner I could what I thought of your circumstances, and he was pleased to answer me, under an injunction of the greatest secrecy, that he had and would take care of you.

"I wish you joy of coming into Hampshire; you may depend upon a visit when I go to and return from Hampton [Southampton]. There is a young gentleman, a relation of mine, who is called to the bar, that lives near Farnham; I must beg leave to recommend him to your friendship and protection." (VII. 21.)

SIR JONATHAN TRELAWNY, Bishop of Winchester, to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1707, August 2 [-13].—"I had not written to you this post but to acquaint you that Dyer in his public letters into this country tells us you are going into orders, which is much more surprising news than that you sent me of your finding Mr. Trelawny at study and Ned boxing, for each of them was in his way. I don't doubt of your having your eye upon the bishopric of Winchester, but I beg you would not expect it these twenty years; after that I wish you may have it at least as many more.

"I wish you would wait on Mr. Churchill and desire him to let Mr. Johnson know that the rectory of Knoyle in the pleasantest part of Wiltshire in my gift, and reckoned to me worth 300*l.* a year, is now void, and by the command of my Lord Duke of Marlborough at Dr. Shaw's service.

"I would have Dr. Shaw be very nimble in the matter and go down with speed to see it whilst his instruments are preparing, because it is harvest time, and he will certainly suffer by the Bishop of Sarum's sequestering it into ill hands.

"For Matthew Prior, Esq., at his house in Duke Street, Westminster." (VII. 22.)

The DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1707, August 25. [N.S.] Camp at Soignies.—[See Marlborough's Letters and Dispatches, ed. Murray, iii. 530.] (VII. 24.)

EDWARD SOUTHWELL to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, May 30[–June 10]. Dublin.—"Dyer's letter alarms people very much; every post he says something of my Lord Sunderland; sometimes that he is packing up his papers, and many such insolencies which I wonder are suffered."

"I know but little of the Court here, having much business to do; but those who frequent it say they believe my Lord seems dubious how long he may stay, because he prudently avoids all expense and is very civil to everybody.

"Last night in the Coffee House, Mr. Shadwell, one of my Lord's chaplains, gave a guinea to another parson to have two pence a day whilst my Lord is in the Government, and he hopes to make a little fortune out of his bet.

"Let me hear soon, and don't be too stingy." (VII. 32.)

SIR THOMAS HANMER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, June 15[–26]. Euston.—"Though I am very well pleased to have left the town, I will not be spiteful enough to you who remain in it to talk of the pleasures of the country, except of one which you yourself have contrived for me, the receiving a letter from you; and the thanks I owe you for it won't suffer me to be silent in that. You see I might have lost the summer if I had stayed to see the fruits of the secret consultations which were to change the world. Methinks they ripen very slowly, and I wish they be not overtaken and nipped by the winter. One observation I can make, and I may venture to do it, because it arises most properly in the country, that the time which has already been lost must make a new election more inconvenient (were it now to come never so soon), and delaying it much longer will make it impossible. The conclusion, therefore, the dullest of us may draw, that without that step nothing can go on, for a new ministry with an old Parliament will be worse than the Gospel absurdity of a piece of new cloth in an old garment, or new wine in old bottles.

"Don't think me quite destitute of public spirit if I confess to you I think pretty indifferently of these matters, and feel no palpitations of heart concerning them. If it be a fault, I can't help wishing it to my friends too, that you might have no reason to wait upon the humours of men or the tricks of State." (VII. 34.)

LIONEL CRANFIELD, EARL OF DORSET, to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, July 14[–25]. Knole.—"If what I see in the papers is true concerning your restoration, you must give me leave to wish you joy; but I can't help thinking, if this is all your Church friends think of doing for you, and if so long a suspension is all you are to get for being so good a Papist, in

my poor opinion you could hardly have fared worse if you had never renounced Presbytery.

"I hope I need not tell you how well I wish you, and that if this piece of news is true, how sincerely I wish it may only be a forerunner of something infinitely better." (VII. 35.)

SIR THOMAS HANMER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, July 17[–28]. Euston.—"I am glad to hear my Lord Anglesey has some amends made him for the disappointment in the Seals [Secretary of State], which had been so long by public voice voted to him. As they are fallen into the hands of a brother commissioner of yours [Lord Dartmouth], I hope you can't be without some benefit from them, by his friendship at least, if not by his removal, though both foreign and home prints put you into the place he leaves, and that's an acknowledgment how much 'tis your due, whether it be a true account of fact or no. I conclude it is not so, because you make no mention of it in your letter, and I conclude you wish my pleasure enough not to be silent in anything which you know would be the cause of so much to me.

"You take a very ill argument to persuade me to come up to town to hear and learn the news there, when I have it at so much better advantage in the relations you give me of it." (VII. 36.)

PETER NEEDHAM to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, July 20[–31]. St. John's College, [Cambridge].—"I am just returned hither out of the country, and find to my great satisfaction that you are at last restored to your commission, which I sincerely wish you a long and happy enjoyment of, unless a further promotion should prevent it. The other day I met with Mr. Annesley and Mr. Castleton, who confirm the good news, and give me hopes that this will not be the last mark of Her Majesty's favour to you." (VII. 37.)

The EARL OF CHOLMONDELEY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, July 26[–August 6].—"My very good friend, nothing is so acceptable to a country gentleman like myself than to hear from my friends in town, and amongst them you stand in the first rank. I am only concerned that you do not confirm the news that is in the foreign *Gazette* to me, that Mons. Prior is made one of the Commissioners of Trade. In good truth I would rather hear that confirmed than have a patent for my own place [Treasurer of the Household] for life; though these times are as dangerous and uncertain for those that set their hearts upon holding places as perhaps ever were.

"I sit and philosophize over your *Réflections Curieuses*, and in the main am come to this point, that my books, my

garden, and my two little rooms over my greenhouse are my best tenure. And for one that has neither superstition nor more religion than is absolutely necessary, a quiet mind is better than to embroil, plague, and trouble myself amongst the kn—s and fo—ls about either Church or State, though I were sure to get by it—especially since I am like to muster in the last class and not in the first.

"But to leave politics, I desire Cavalier Davie would let me know what size he must have the stone got for his double figures, for should we go on with the design of his cutting the figures for my garden, I am in hopes I can find stone here, which will not only save the charge of carriage, but will also secure us from any breach or damage by so long a way of carriage as is from London hither. Pray let me know this in your next, and as anything new either at home or abroad happens, oblige your country friend with it, who cannot go to the price of Mr. Dyer, and therefore am quite ignorant how matters go." (VII. 38.)

Viscount Weymouth to Matthew Prior.

1710, August 11[–22]. Longleat.—"Knowing how little I could be serviceable to anybody, being in reality and also so esteemed a *miles emeritus*, it had been arrogance to have invited a correspondence, but you have long known that your letters were very acceptable to me.

"I have not seen any prints that mentioned any other employment for you than that you are restored to, wherein you may be very useful to the public, if you will please to set your shoulders to it, for Messieurs de Buyse and Vanderdussen, the now arbiters of peace and war, will scarce break their brains to restore or increase the sinking trade of England.

"There is indeed a great man [Godolphin] fallen, but he is not buried, and whoever shall be his successors will have work enough to keep the tottering cart upon the wheels.

"We are very busy in preparing for a new Parliament, and shall, I fancy, have pretty good success in many elections, but it will be difficult to satisfy the expectations of 550 men, and I never knew undertakers for Parliaments come off without some scratches." (VII. 39.)

The Earl of Cholmondeley to Matthew Prior.

1710, August 16[–27].—"My good friend, I am extremely obliged to you for your kind letters and the account you give me of these mighty events that are now in agitation. For my own part I would much rather hear your sentiments upon these matters than publish my own, having always had a very good opinion of the first and a very mean one of the last. And in good truth, as it is very difficult from the first lines of a landscape to judge the painter's design, whether it is to be a storm or a calm, so in these nice points I think it pru-

dence for us country gentlemen to suspend our judgments till Mr. Dyer, our top politician, lets us further into the secret. For my own part I have no other curiosity than what my duty to the Queen and the good of my country naturally leads me to; and if those go well, I am satisfied. I am quite out of the bustle, and have nothing but my own actions to answer for, which are in a very narrow sphere, about my private pleasures and concerns. For the rest I sincerely wish my friend Mr. Prior as great a share in these revolutions as he can desire himself." (VII. 40.)

ADAM CARDONNEL to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, Sept 1. [N.S.] Gand.—"I thank you, my dear friend, for your kind concern for me. I have indeed had a severe time of it, five or six days together light-headed, with convulsions for ten days, but I thank God I have now recovered a pretty good measure of strength, so that I design in two days for the army, where I will not fail to make your compliments immediately to His Grace [Marlborough]; and if I ever get into Duke Street again, I promise you it shall not be my fault if we are not better neighbours." (VII. 52.)

SIR THOMAS HANMER to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1710, Sept. 2[–13]. Euston.—"I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken to secure our Quakers in the interest we wish them, but am sorry to tell you what the fruit of it all is; for either there is a great mistake somewhere or your friend Sir [*sic*] William [Penn] has dealt deceitfully with us. I applied myself to Dikes (the person you referred to) and after I had told him my errand and given him the signs which were to prove my mission, he was very much surprised, not knowing how to distrust either me or my tokens, and yet he assured me he had by that post received a letter from that very Edmund Cross, of Woodbridge, whom you mentioned as the person who was to receive the verbal directions from Sir William and convey them to the brethren, which letter expressly contradicted mine and earnestly recommended Sir Philip Parker and myself. I then hoped that might be a letter written before Sir William had spoke to Cross; I therefore desired him to write again, that the matter might be explained to him. This at my request he did, and last night sent me an account of the answer he received, which was positive for Sir Philip Parker. I can now go no farther in tracing the mystery, but must send it back again to you to discover the reason of such a proceeding. I make no doubt but you explained yourself to Sir William, that Sir Robert Davers was to be the partner in the same interest with me, but whether he made himself rightly understood by his subordinate friends is the only doubt which remains with me. For it has been an artifice used even here in the country by that party to

give it out that Sir Philip and I join, and with many ignorant people the trick obtained so far that it has cost me no little pains to undeceive them.

"If Sir William therefore gave the word for me and my partner and they by wrong information believed Sir Philip to be so, this possibly may have occasioned the mistake; otherwise I see nothing that can clear Sir William of having equivocated with you. I leave it to your farther enquiry, and if you can find him soon, and he be willing and in earnest to set this right, the time is not yet too late, for our election is not to be till Wednesday fortnight, which is the 18th."

Postscript.—"'Tis very confidently said that the Duke of Ormond makes interest for Stanhope, and that so does the Duke of Buckingham. It comes indeed from those whom I believe the less the more confidently they relate anything; but I wish very much to be satisfied in it, therefore pray inform me of the naked fact." (VII. 41.)

Henry St. John to Matthew Prior.

1710, Sept. 11[–22].—"I suppose you are by this time returned from the country, and therefore I send this note to acquaint you that the Queen has been spoke to in your affair.

"She is inclined to show you her favour, and is indifferent which commission she places you in; so that if you settle your business with the ministers, I believe it will meet with no obstruction above.

"I am always glad of an occasion of showing you that I am very truly your, etc."

Postscript.—"Give me notice when you renew your application, that I may put my helping hand at the same time to what you desire." (VII. 42.)

Sir Thomas Hanmer to Matthew Prior.

1710, Sept. 11[–22]. Euston.—"But that I have been from home this whole fortnight last past, I should have written to you, both because I have your letter to thank you for and a great deal in my own thoughts which I want to tell you of. But neither have I a moment's time now to do it, for I am teased and tired out of my life with an opposition which has lately arisen in this county, and though I am not opposed myself, it costs me ten times more pains to support my partner, who is very strenuously pushed at. Sir Philip Parker, who has lately had a great deal of money left him, scatters it upon this occasion at no rate, and this is seconded by three the greatest men of this county, who are content too for the forming an interest to stoop the lowest. You'll wonder to hear that I am to solicit you on this subject, but I believe you may very effectively help us,

and I beg you will. There are a great many Quakers here, who, I find, promise nobody, and preserve themselves indifferent, by which I conclude they have yet received no instruction from their leaders. I know you are very well acquainted with Sir [*sic*] William Penn, and I am apt to believe, if he be well applied to, he may at this juncture command his flock to appear for us. Let me desire you therefore to seek him out as soon as possibly you can, and to press him on this point." (VII. 43.)

The Earl of Cholmondeley to Matthew Prior.

1710, Sept. 19[–30].—"I was turning over Mons. Bayle's *Letter to a Doctor of Sorbonne* when I received my good friend Mr. Prior's last letter, and I could not help thinking that they are more portentous than any comet. I have received not one from you but what has either foretold or pointed out some remarkable change, or the downfall of some great man. Your last letter informs me that great and consummate politician, the Duke of Bolton, is turned out, and a much greater than he is come in his place, the Duke of Beaufort. Thus the State wheel keeps time with the lottery wheel, and whilst some few unexpectedly carry away the great prizes, the majority go off with blanks. The uncertainties in the public affairs of the world, and the uneasiness that naturally belongs to them does in good earnest still more and more fix my inclinations upon the quiet of my garden and a country life, from which I shall be with great difficulty drawn. However, my most hearty and sincere wishes are that everything may be done for the honour, glory and safety of the Queen; and though I own this is but a very impotent way of serving Her Majesty, yet a Treasurer, as I am, without cash and with little or no credit, hath nought else that I know but wishes. May every one in their several stations have the same disinterested zeal and sincerity in their words and actions as I will ever have, and then our good Queen will never be brought into any trouble.

"I hope my servants have sent the two pots of venison and fowl, which I desire Nanny and you will remember a country friend over."

Postscript.—"Pray tell Chevalier David I shall have time enough to settle all matters with him at my coming to town." (VII. 44.)

William Edmundson to Matthew Prior.

1710, Oct. 1[–12]. [St. John's College, Cambridge.]—"It is the unanimous request of the Master and Fellows that you would be pleased to come down on Wednesday next and assist Mr. Shaw in his election for this place on Thursday in the room of Mr. Annesley, who is called to the House of Lords. He is a particular friend of Mr. Hill's. I

presume he will wait upon you himself. Excuse haste." (VII. 46.)

William Shaw to Matthew Prior.

1710, Oct. 1[–12].—"I must entreat the favour of you, if it be possible, to assist me with your vote at the ensuing election at Cambridge. My Lord Anglesey declines standing, and the contest is like to be great, and the division so near, that for aught can be foreseen one voice may turn it. The election comes on upon Thursday next at two o'clock, and if you can possibly come down to assist me, I can assure you it will be a great obligation to your friend Mr. Hill (who gives me leave to make use of his name to you), to the whole society of St. John's, who are entirely in my interest, and to, etc." (VII. 47.)

Grace Shaw to Matthew Prior.

1710, Oct. 2[–13]. St. James's Street.—"Mr. Shaw is gone to Cambridge this morning. He wrote to you last night, but forgot then to beg the favour of you to use your interest in Mr. Wade, of Trinity College, to go down to Cambridge to assist him with his vote."

Postscript.—"I think Mr. Wade lodges in Bromley Street in Drury Lane, at Dr. Hobart's." (VII. 48.)

Lord Halifax to Matthew Prior.

1713[-14], Dec. 23[–Jan. 3].—"Now the post is open and I can write to Mr. Prior as a friend without charging the Secretary's packet with an address to a great minister, I shall be fond of beginning a correspondence about matters which no way concern the State. You are in the place of the world I have the greatest inclination to see, and since by one accident or other perhaps it will never be proper for me to make that voyage, I must beg your assistance to procure me some things which that happy climate furnishes better than any other. You told me you were acquainted with Frère François who writ the *Jardinier solitaire*; I have by advance made him this compliment, I have planted a garden of four acres at Bushy exactly upon his plan and design. But I have a greater scheme in my head: I have a farm at Apscourt of a hundred acres, all within a wall; it was formerly a seat, but the house is pulled down. The soil is perhaps the best in England for fruit, as appears by what is planted, and I would turn the whole into gardens and orchards for fruit. People would persuade me there are as good trees to be had here as in France, that their trees suffered much by the hard frost, but I would willingly try the experiment and make this plantation, by your assistance, for if my ground should agree with the trees (and they tell me 'tis not unlike the French soil), I should have better fruit than anybody. You find I should

want a great quantity, and I am not pressed in time, for the ground will not be prepared quickly, that there will be room to advise and take due measures in the choice of the trees most proper for our climate. Having thus opened my grand design, I desire that you will at leisure, and to unbend your mind, discourse Frère François and the learned in these affairs, and give me your thoughts upon it. Sir Andrew Fountaine has much obliged me in buying some little *bustos* and figures for me; I beg to trouble you with the enclosed to deliver to him." (VII. 53.)

[The Earl of Oxford] to Matthew Prior.

1713–14, Jan. 16–27.—"I have begun a very large letter to my dear friend Matthew, but cannot finish it until I return from Windsor, as you will perceive, when it comes to you, the reason of it. But I must not let Jonathan [Prior's servant] go without two words to tell you how much and how entirely I am your true friend and servant, and that the Queen is satisfied with your conduct, as we all have reason.

"The Queen's gout is going off, she came out into the rooms on Thursday. The alarm arose from her being at Windsor, which I could not dissuade her from staying so long where she likes and found herself so well. You know she has every year an access of an ague.

"Jonathan brings the instruments for the Queen's dowry; you may be sure they are such as our forms of law require. I beg you to be present as a witness at Her Majesty's signing them. Pray let there be no scruples, which will tend only to delay the payments, and you see already how Her Majesty's trustee has embarrassed and delayed the affair; and yet you know what his father owed and professed to that Princess.

"Mons. Lafay will bring my letters and compliments to Mons. Torcy. I am ever, dear friend, yours." *Unsigned.* (VII. 54.)

Lord Halifax to Matthew Prior.

1713[–14], March 20[–31].—"I give you a thousand thanks for two obliging letters I have received from you, and the fruit trees, which are all come in good condition, and are planted at Bushy. I wish you had sent with the trees the *mémoire* that Frère François made of the cost, that I might with the more freedom have desired your assistance in buying other things, and especially in finishing my plantations. If you will allow me to correspond with you on those terms, you will do me a very sensible pleasure, but I cannot content myself to put you to trouble and expense too upon the score of ancient friendship.

"I am also obliged to Mr. Drift for some melon-seed, which I shall try this year. This kind present puts me upon asking a further favour of that kind, which is, that, when you have an opportunity of sending them easily, you would

furnish me with some seed of the herbs commonly used for 'salating'; I have sometimes had of them from Madam Governey, and they eat much better, but they soon degenerate when raised from their seed here

"I wish you could suggest to me anything that would be agreeable from hence; if you care for malt drink, I think I could send good of any sort." (VII. 51.)

Sir James Montagu to Matthew Prior.

1714, Oct. 17[–28].—"Dear Mat, Dick Shelton acquainting me he was to write to inform you of Lord Halifax's kind intentions to renew his friendship with you, I was willing his account of a matter, which, I hope, will be very pleasing to you, should be backed with another authority, and since I can vouch for the truth of what he is to relate, I thought it would not be unacceptable to let you know that I have had since some further discourse with your old master concerning you, and in it he expressed more concern than I can represent in this paper, to find there had been no better care taken of you. He is likewise a good deal uneasy to find people here so little disposed to do anything in your favour; therefore does apprehend he may meet with some difficulties in his endeavours to serve you; but is resolved, let the trouble be more or less, he will let you see he retains a tenderness towards you, which will exert itself whenever there is a proper occasion.

"The chief thing at present he desires to be informed of is how matters stand, and which way you can propose for him to take for the doing you the most service.

"The present turn of affairs happening to be on our side, he and I are got again into office, as the public newspapers have ere now informed you; which puts us both in some hurry and has hindered me from writing sooner to you." (VII. 55.)

The Earl of Halifax to Matthew Prior.

1714, Nov. 4[–15].—"I have received the favour of two letters from you, to which I was uneasy to give an answer. In those you was pleased to speak of some points about which our notions are very different. I shall always avoid to say disagreeable things to any one, especially to those one wishes well. Nor would I willingly seem to be misled and imposed upon. Therefore, if you please, let all those matters be passed over, and not mentioned any more.

"As to your affairs in the Treasury, I send you the account of what you have received and of the bills you have drawn. I mentioned it to Mr. Shelton, who was surprised at the sum, and seemed not to believe it was so. If you think fit, you will explain it.

"The commission of the Customs is renewed, in which you are omitted. I doubt in that you will think you might have

been favoured, but, if I may have credit with you, it was impossible." (VII. 56.)

PAUL METHUEN to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1714, Nov. 27[–Dec. 8]. London.—"I am ashamed that I have been so long without answering yours of the 9th inst., and beg you would believe that the only reason of this delay was because I was in hopes to send you some comfort at the same time that I acknowledged the favour of your letter.

"You will have heard of my going to Spain; and my departure is fixed for the tenth of the next month, so that I have not been at the Treasury this last fortnight, nor can I meddle with anything more there whilst I stay; howsoever, I must take this opportunity to acquaint you that I think my Lord Halifax is really and sincerely as desirous to serve you as I myself or any other of your friends can be; but your case seems to be so particular in relation to the Treasury that he does not well know how to go about it. For it does not appear that you ever had any Privy Seal or settled allowance, as all other ministers who go abroad have, and consequently those who are in the Treasury have no authority for paying you anything. Besides which they say you have drawn bills for more money since your being in France than would have been due to you if you had had the character of ambassador extraordinary, which I do not believe.

"When I sat there and received your letter, I told my brethren that I supposed your case was that your being sent to France without any other character but that of plenipotentiary was that you might not by ceremonies be hindered from doing business, and that the Earl of Oxford had only told you that he would take care to pay your bills for the money you was forced to spend.

"Upon the whole matter, I must do my Lord Halifax the justice to say that I think he is disposed to serve you, and I hope will somehow or other bring it about. I can assure you that I heartily pity your condition, and never see his lordship without putting him in mind of it. And if you are pleased to allow a man, who has not the honour of being so well known to you as he could wish, the freedom of giving you advice in this juncture, I believe the best course you can take is to insist on staying where you are till your demands are satisfied.

"I beg pardon for presuming to offer any to one who is so much a better judge of men and business than myself, but what I say proceeds only from my sincere wishes and desire to serve you. You will excuse my troubling you with the enclosed for the Duc d'Aumont; he was very civil to me here, and I shall always have a great respect for him. If I have not given him his right titles or all of them, I hope he will be so kind as to excuse it." (VII. 57.)

The Earl of Halifax to Matthew Prior.

1714, Dec. 2[–13].—"We have been under more difficulty to know how to serve you than you will easily imagine. The payments you have actually received, and the bills you have drawn do so far exceed any allowance either as plenipotentiary or ambassador that we were at a loss to know how we could justify any further payments.

"I read your letters to the King, and did not omit doing you all the good I could. The King has therefore ordered you should be paid the allowance of a plenipotentiary from the 1st August to the 1st December, together with a bill of extraordinaries amounting in the whole to 1,176*l.*, and the bills which were due in the Queen's time will be paid in course out of the Queen's arrears. I hope this will be to your satisfaction: I do assure you, if I could have contrived a rule more favourable to you, I would have offered it." (VII. 58.)

James Stanhope to Matthew Prior.

1714–15, Feb. 7[–18]. Whitehall.—"In answer to your letters of the 1st and 12th of February I shall only say that I have truly acquainted His Majesty with the contents of them as likewise with the justice done to you by the Earl of Stair in all his despatches. I likewise represented to His Majesty in Council, that it would be impossible for you to return home, unless you were enabled to pay your debts; upon which His Majesty has been pleased to direct that your demands as stated to my Lord Halifax be complied with, and accordingly I have signified His Majesty's pleasure thereupon to Lord Halifax." (VII. 59.)

The Earl of Halifax to Matthew Prior.

[Same date.]—"'Tis with great pleasure that I can now let you know that upon reading my Lord Stair's letter, giving an account of your readiness to obey His Majesty's orders, the King has directed us to pay you 2,408*l.* for the two bills of extraordinaries which you demanded, which together with what is due to you yet on your ordinary allowance shall be dispatched with all the favour and civility we can show you. 'Twill be a great pleasure to me in particular to hasten your return from an unhappy and uneasy station to your own country and friends, in which number I desire you will rank me." (VII. 60.)

The Earl of Chesterfield to Matthew Prior.

1717, June 15[–26].—"I have received your letter of the 11th instant, and 'tis a satisfaction to me when I can oblige an ingenious man, as I find I have done you, and only by sending you a trifle which I am glad was acceptable. As much as you think yourself out of the world, you must allow me to be more so, if you do but reflect how miserable I am

by the unfortunate want of my hearing; and though we are all apt to be partial to ourselves, yet I believe I may safely say that nothing this world affords can be an equivalent for the loss of so very useful a sense as that of hearing. To say more on this subject is only *renovare dolorem*, so I dismiss it. Whatever may become of other mortals when they quit this gay stage of noise, folly, madness, nonsense and impertinence, you are sure (glow-worm-like) to shine in the dark by the bright poems you will leave behind you. *Dignum laude virum Musa vetat mori.* As to your enemies, nobody in this world is without them, and the best way to be rid of that sort of vermin is to despise such as are not worth our anger; and others perhaps by kindness may be brought over to be our friends, as Catullus was by Julius Cæsar, who, you know, invited him to supper after he had writ a severe satire upon him and entertained him as kindly as if it had been a panegyric. A rare instance of moderation or dissimulation! Henry the Fourth of France, who was a good judge of men, used to say that more flies were caught by one drop of honey than a whole tun of vinegar. If a certain prince had tried this experiment at his first coming to the Crown, I believe he would not have met with that trouble and animosity from his subjects he has done. I do not wonder at your being out at Court, if you can't slide well, for 'tis very slippery ground, and the wise Earl of Strafford, who had his head cut off by a company of knaves as well as fools, advised his eldest son never to aspire to a higher employment in the service of his country than that of justice of the peace. Perhaps the present Earl of Strafford (notwithstanding his excess of bloated pride) may have wished more than once that he had followed this maxim. For what the poet says is true. *Tolluntur in altum, Ut lapsu graviora ruant;* and I hope our young Phaëton will quickly find it so, for I take him to be no better qualified for the high place he is now in, by tripping up the heels of his old friend and cuckold than the other Phaëton was to drive the horses of the sun. But 'tis a very common thing for madmen to undertake what they are not able to perform. Pray my service to Mr. Shelton, whom I think a very good sort of a man." (VII. 67.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1717, Sept. 14[–25]. Duke Street, Westminster.—"I ought rather, my dear Lord, to have brought my person to Wimple than have sent you this epistle from Duke Street, but I shall be detained by a little business about a fortnight longer, and will with your good liking send a little before for your coach to be ordered to meet me at Royston. In the meantime pray send me word how long you will be at Wimple, for I hear you are going into the North; how long the Earl of Oxford stays with you, how my Lady and little Madam Margaretta do, and what else you think may tend to my satis-

faction, and more particularly if you have got me a rich wife in Cambridgeshire. I have nothing more to say to you now but what I shall say to you for ever, that I am entirely, etc." (I. 3.)

Simon Harcourt to Matthew Prior.

1717, Sept. 24[–Oct. 5]. Cockthorp.—"Dear Brother, I readily acknowledge the statutes of our Fraternity [The Brothers], and will always endeavour to observe them, in points especially that so nearly concern the interest of my brother Prior.

"I fear upon further enquiry into the affair of the Charterhouse, you will find you have been misinformed. Lord Harcourt assures me he has actually filled up his next turn, and left it, signed and sealed at the Charterhouse, in the hands of the proper officer. The boy my father has nominated is a son of the Rev. Christopher Banes, an old man, and what is worse, I fear, your schoolfellow. By this you will see your present case is not within the Statutes of our Society, and how impossible it is for us to have the satisfaction of doing a pleasurable thing to you. All I can say to you is, since your heart is so immovably bent upon doing good, that your best way will be to have recourse to the Master of the Charterhouse, and get from him a list of the Governors, by which you will see who of your friends are engaged, and who not, or whether any of your friends who are not engaged, and whose nominations are at distance, can prevail with any of their brethren whose turns are as yet unsupplied, and such as in course of time may be of service to you, and so we bid you heartily farewell." (VII. 68.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1717], Nov. 4[–15]. Cambridge.—"Victoria: for Gooche, 122; against us, 60.*

"Our old and new Vice-Chancellor is going immediately for London, being summoned to appear before the King in Council on Thursday. I shall give you an account on Thursday—I hope at dinner time—that I have executed your commands here."

Postscript.—"Service always to my best lady, love to Major [Foley]. I have made a hundred puns in forty-eight hours, to the joy and wonder of all my hearers." (I. 5.)

The Same to the Same.

1717, Nov. 7[–18]. Cambridge.—"Having been with the doctors and Dick Fisher ever since Your Lordship left me, you may very well imagine I could find neither pen or ink in their chambers, and if I had a better pen than Bentley himself or more wit than Sacheverel, I could neither suffi-

* A triumph for the anti-Bentleyan faction.

ciently thank you for your goodness to me at Wimple, nor express my own concern for leaving you. I always thought I loved you very well, but never before felt it so sensibly. But to talk like men of this world, I am very well received by all here except the Bentleyans and Bangorians.

"I saw the Provost just now and made your compliments to him; he is ill and in bed. I have gone my rounds and to-morrow morning set out to London. Though I did not desire you, I am sure you will give my great respects to Lady Harriette, and Lord and Lady Oxford, and my love—for it is a very pure and innocent passion—to little Margaretta.

"My writing to you is, you see, a kind of hankering after Wimple, and a desire of talking longer with you, for I have no earthly thing to tell you but what I hope you have long since believed, that I am ever, etc."

Postscript.—"The change of the two Court chaplains causes here *bella, horrida bella.*" (I. 8.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1717, Nov. [30-Dec. 11], Saturday. Duke Street, Westminster.—"This letter, my dear Lord, is rather to know when I shall see you than to excuse my not having written to you since my coming to London. I have so much to say to you, that I reserve it all for a *tête à tête*, or I must be obliged to write a volume. Now, since talking with you is the thing in the world that I love, and writing a book the thing in the world I hate, I think myself excused, and as *Alma* says:—'He's half absolved that has confessed.'

"I have not been out of my house these ten days, being detained with a cold and rheum in my head, so you cannot expect much news from me. What people bring me in is the effect of an unhappy difference between the King and Prince, for which we say His Royal Highness keeps his chamber.

"The Parliament, they say, will be resty against the troops; Whigs and Tories begin to think there are not a sufficient number disbanded. What would people have?

"You have seen Bangor's last book. The Court, I hear, are resolved to sustain it, but that is not our business.*

"I have not seen Wanley; Tonson has, and the Dragon, I suppose, has convinced Your Lordship of the vellum as impracticable, improbable, impossible. The supplement to this defect is paper imperial, and the largest in England, of which due care shall be taken. Morley was with me this morning madder than ever about Fiske the apothecary and his copper-plate. Tonson and Drift have a little appeased him, and we shall have a plate as big as has been formed since the days of Alexander the Coppersmith. Will that do?

"Our pecuniary affair Morley will settle at his next return to London; there is no haste as to any thing of that kind; I shall see you before then at London.

* *Cf.* Portland MSS. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) *Harley Letters and Papers*, iii. 534.

"The Bishop of Chester, my near neighbour, has just now visited me; we drank your health in your own cider.

"My goods are come from France, and *Valerius Maximus* shall stay unseen till you vouchsafe him a visit.

"And now I have tired you, but you must read on, till I tell you that I desire you to give my great respects to Lady Harriette, and love to Peggy; pray likewise send me a turkey and some beer, and come as soon as you can to him who is ever, etc."

Postscript.—"Lord and Lady Oxford, I hear, will be at London as soon as you can have received this, so I do not trouble you with my compliments to them. *Vale.*" *Unsigned.* (I. 6.)

The Same to the Same.

1717, Dec. 14[–25]. Westminster.—"You have honoured my letter—as merchants call it—in a very compendious manner, by sending me for answer a great turkey, but if he had brought a letter tied to his leg, to tell whence he came, and how the people did that sent him, he would not have been less welcome. In short, when I asked you for victuals, I did not design your munificence should atone for your want of correspondence; a letter might have served as a kind of table-talk to a turkey. Though *quatenus* man, and subject to hunger, I ought to thank you for your present, *quatenus* friend, and desiring to hear from you, I ought to be a little angry at your silence. Pigeons sent into cities besieged, however they may be good meat in themselves, were always more kindly received when they arrived with any news from friends without doors; and the fish in the Popish legend might claim it as his right to be eat, but had like to have been canonized when the *annulus piscatoris* was found in his belly. And now, my Lord, my resentment shall go no further than to desire you to give my great duty to Lord Oxford, respect to Lady Oxford and Lady Harriette, love to little Peggy, good wishes to all your family, and Jonathan's extraordinary sense of your butler's perpetual civility towards him: and my letter shall end when I have assured you that you cannot do me greater favour than in honouring me with your commands, nor greater pleasure than in letting me hear from you."

Postscript.—"The news of the day is that the Prince and Princess are better as to their health, and Mr. Addison is at the point of death." (I. 10.)

Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, to Matthew Prior.

1717–18, New Year's Day. Deanery, [Westminster].—"I make you a better present than any man in England receives this day—two poems composed by a friend of mine with that extraordinary genius and spirit which attend him equally in whatever he says, does, or writes. I do not ask

your approbation of them; deny it if you can, or if you dare; the whole world will be against you; and should you therefore be so unfortunate in your judgment, you will, I dare say, be so wise and modest as to conceal it, for, though it be a very good character and what belongs to the first pens in the world, to write like nobody, yet to judge like nobody has never yet been esteemed a perfection.

"When you have read them, let me see you at my house, or else you are in danger, lame as I am, of seeing me at yours. And the difference in that case is that, whenever you have me there in my present condition, you cannot easily get rid of me; whereas, if you come hither, you may leave me as soon as you please, and I have no way to help myself, being confined to my chair, just as I was when you saw me last. If this advantage will not tempt you rather to make than receive the visit, nothing else will.

"Whether I see you or not, let me at least see something under your hand that may tell you how you do, and whether your deafness continues. And if you would flatter me agreeably, let something be said at the end of your letter which may make me for two minutes believe that you are half as much mine as I am yours, etc." (VII. 69.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1717–18, Jan. 2–13. Westminster.—"This is to convey to you all the good wishes which people send at this season to those whom they love best, and to thank you for your very welcome letter, which would have pleased me perfectly, if it had told me my good and beloved Lady was entirely restored to her health. I hope by this time she is so, and that, when you go *ad stabellum*, you are casting your eye principally towards the coach-horses, and that they may soon cast theirs towards Dover Street. When you come hither—I must in friendship tell you—you will think the town one great Bedlam, such variety of madness and of melancholy will you find in it. The ingenious authors you mention to have lain neglected in the window should really be revised and published in England to teach us mirth and wit; but of this more when I see you, for I have a great deal to say to you. We are in Lincoln's Inn Fields *sicut olim*, only that after dinner I dare not persecute for want of my second, for which weighty reason among many other I think you ought to hasten your journey. I thank you for your inundation of most excellent beer; I have locked it safely up, and intend to give the key to Adrian, as I may do that of my library to Jonathan, that so my books and my beer may neither be touched nor embezzled. As to the Scudamorian, I neither dare ask or refuse, no man is obliged to pay his father's debt twice, and it may become a yearly tax which was first meant a present. We may converse at leisure on these points; my present business is to desire Your Lordship to give my

most sincere respects to my Lady, and to let me have the honour of continuing always 'most truly your servant.' (I. 12.)

The Same to the Same.

[1718 ?] Easter Monday.—"Caesar and Calphurnia have invited me to-day so solemnly to dine with my Lord of Oxford, that I could not in conscience refuse it; Your Lordship and Lady Harriet are probably of the party, if so, 'tis better and better. I am astonished at the surprising generosity of a certain Lady, and I think you are the properest person to tell her so; say whatever you can in my name, for every thing you say will be obliging to her. I can think but of one thing, which is, to let her know her present was thrown away upon me; for nothing can make me esteem her with more perfect veneration or excite me to serve her all my life with more truth and zeal, than her sweetness and goodness to all your friends, though she had not been pleased to confer so frequent and particular marks of her favour upon myself. *Addio, Signore, sono obligatissimo sempre.*" *Unsigned.* (I. 131.)

The Same to the Same.

1718, April [15–26], Tuesday.—"I beg Your Lordship's and Lady Harriett's pardon that I do not dine at home to-day, a gentleman in Lincoln's Inn Fields having engaged me; we shall drink your healths; pray do us reason." (I. 14.)

The Same to the Same.

1718, May 1[–12]. Westminster.—"By the letter which my Lord of Oxford received from you yesterday I saw that you and Lady Harriett are well, of which without any affectation I am as glad as he himself could be to whom the letter was directed. I hope my little Peggy is recovered of her indisposition; I know no child I shall love so well till I see one who may own the two *squires* for its parents. *A propos*, that affair goes on but awkwardly; since Lady Dup[plin] has had the administration in her hands, I have seen Jinny but once, and that too at Ombre, which is but a meagre entertainment for a lover. When you left London I well hoped I might retire to my own cell, but human expectations are vain, and I find myself only removed from Dover Street to Lincoln's Inn Fields, where a letter may surer find me than in Duke Street, Westminster. I will reserve the particulars of that scene till I have the honour of seeing you; imagine, however, a little of it by way of diary.—Monday. My Lord comes to see the Dups; rap, rap, a footman at the door; my Lord will call Mr. Prior presently, for he must dine with him as he promised; when or where that promise made, *nusquam constat.* 'Then you dine with me to-morrow,'—Tuesday—'for there is company that you ought to see, and Wednesday, for I dine alone.' 'Thursday,' says Lady Duplin in a soft

voice, 'we dine with my father, and he will take it very ill if you don't come, for he ordered me to invite you in great form.' And before this dinner is half digested, at that memorable moment when the toasted cheese appears, 'Prior, you dine with me to-morrow, for we must go to Richardson's before dinner. I'll call you at one, pray be ready.'—Friday. That 'one' is three. 'It is too late to go to Richardson's, but to-morrow we will go, and pray don't engage yourself, now I have given you fair warning.'

"I could continue my journal, but you may guess that one week is not unlike another: only take notice, that all this while I am very frequently told that my coming near Lincoln's Inn Fields is owing to my friends being gone from Dover Street, which reproach I could more easily bear if I had my dear second by me, to give a certain person a little mark of remembrance towards the close of the evening.

"Every morning and night I am plagued with commas, semicolons, italic and capital, to which I have given such laborious despatch and punctual order as to be ready to come *quo me fata vocant.*

"Adieu, my Lord, pray let my compliments be distributed as followeth:—My very great and sincere respects to Lady Harriett; my kind love and pure affection to little mistress Peggy; and my hearty friendship and service to the Cardinal and the Major [Foley]." (I. 15.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1718, May 22[–June 2]. Westminster.—"I only know from my good sister Duplin's letters that her dear brother Harley is well; I desire by a word immediately to myself to be informed which very day you expect I should be at the Bath with you, upon which advice I will regulate myself; I would stay amongst my commas and colons till I may so join you as to wait on you in your western expedition, upon which I have greatly set my heart. We are all well, and one week passes here mighty like another; sister Duplin will tell you that her Lord and she set out for Yorkshire on Monday next. Pray write to me or I shall be very peevish, for to be guzzling twice a day to your health, and not hear once a month from you is intolerable. You will make my great respects agreeable to my Lady, and let the Major know that I intend to dispose of his steed; which is all at present (besides Dick's services) from him who is ever with great truth and zeal, etc." (I. 17.)

The Same to the Same.

1718, May 24[–June 4]. Westminster.—"By reading my last, my dear Lord, you will easily imagine the satisfaction I received from yours of the 21st; it is with great pleasure that I always receive your commands, but more particularly when those commands call me to you. I have not seen the

merchant; if I do between this and Wednesday next, 'tis well; I will stay no longer for any demetrian stroke whatsoever, but throw my person into the Bath coach on Thursday or Friday so as to be able categorically to eat roast beef with you on Whit-Sunday; in the meantime and ever I shall correspond in the manner most agreeable to you. Dup and Duplinia do not leave us till Tuesday, in Lincoln's Inn Fields *sicut olim*. I am pretty well *dégagé* as to my commas and colons, at least I shall be before the time I mention of waiting on you. I have a thousand things to say to you, but nothing more to write than that I am ever, my dear Lord and good Harriett's most humble and obedient friend and servant. Adieu, my dear Lord, *ama me, te semper amabo*."

Postscript.—"Adrian is yours always, but dares express it no otherwise than in promising he will transcribe whatever you order." *Unsigned.* (I. 19.)

The Same to the Same.

1718, June 25[–July 6]. Fountmel, near Shaftsbury.—"I hope, my dear Lord, that this letter may find you returned safe and sound to the Bath from your more western expedition. In the uncertainty in which I am when you design to move again, where you go next, or when to my Lord Paulet's, I send Jonathan over to you. If you design to visit Lord Paulet in a day or two, I am nearer him at the place from whence I write than if I were at Bath, and if I knew your time, I would meet you at Lord Paulet's. If you stay some days longer at Bath before you journey to Lord Paulet's, I will pay my duty to you at Bath; in which case I can be with you on Friday night. Your answer shall determine me; to this end I send over Jonathan, and stay here till I am directed by your motions or intentions. I am with my good friend Dr. Dibbens in a place where even a messenger would have difficulty to find me. If I did not desire you, I am sure you would give my great respects to my Lady, and if I said nothing of my being your servant, you would easily believe I am such. Adieu."

Postscript.—"Service to Major [Foley]: pun: and apart we drink to Harley and Oxford, though we are both Cambridge men." *Unsigned.* (I. 21.)

The Same to the Same.

1718, August 26[–Sept. 6]. Westminster.—"Since I had a great deprivation of pleasure in parting from you, my dear Lord, I have suffered much actual pain and uneasiness from a violent cholera-morbus which—God be thanked—is now past, and only leaves me as yet very weak. I dined to-day with the Earl, and am returned to the land of the living; this account I thought proper to give of myself, finding my health a thing of so great concern as to have given Your Lordship the trouble of a letter to know the state of it,

and whether that letter gives more satisfaction to me, or more honour to Adrian is a point very disputable. I will leave him to make his compliments as he can, and only tell you—as to my own part—that, be my life longer by fifty years, it is so much time dedicated to your service, for I am with the greatest respect—

"Here you see I could end my letter with four words more; but first, pray let me desire Your Lordship to give my best wishes and greatest regards to my Lady; let little Peggy know I love her as a mistress, and the Major that I defy him as a rival, though I esteem him as a friend; and so, my dear Lord, adieu. As soon as Bucephalus is cured of the farcies, and the devils cease to torment me in a morning before nine, I hope to wait on you at Wimpole.

"Our news here is all uncertain, and our victory in the Faro* does not cause great rejoicings in the city of London; once more, my Lord, adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 24.)

Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, to Matthew Prior.

1718, August 27[–Sept. 7]. Bromley.—"The first news I had of your being ill was under your own hand. It was a pleasure to me to find that the worst of your illness was over. I am well acquainted with that distemper, having smarted severely under it myself. Depend upon it, 'tis an acquaintance that will not easily be shook off; you'll hear more of it if you give it the least encouragement to renew its visits. But temperance, good hours, and a little exercise (to all which you are well inclined) will keep it at a distance.

"Mr. Clough, as early as he was, came too late; I had already disposed of the living. However, I frankly said to him what I now say to you, that, if I had not been engaged, I should not have been willing to give it to him. 'Tis a vicarage in a great market-town which requires perpetual residence; and he has another vicarage, which with his minor-canonry is of a value equal to that of Dartford, and which he had no thoughts of quitting, but hoped to have made both consistent. That is a scheme which I can no ways approve, especially in a young single man who does not want a tolerable support, for he has a good 100*l. per annum* now coming in. So much for his affair, upon which I can fully justify myself when I see you.

"But when will that be? Do you remember the solemn promise you made me of coming down hither this summer? You have but a little time left to keep your word in. I have expected you with impatience, my peaches and nectarines hung on the trees for you till they were rotten; and one of my poetical neighbours who observed my uneasiness and thought I wished for your company a little more than his, applied these verses of Virgil to me:—

*The destruction of the Spanish fleet by Admiral Byng, off Cape Passaro, July 31-August 11.

Mirabar quid moeste deos, Francisce, vocares,
Cui pendere sua patereris in arbore poma.
Tityrus hinc aberat, ipsae te, Tityre, pinus
Ipsi te fontes, ipsa haec arbusta vocabant.

"And what excuse shall I make for Tityrus? That he neglected his little friends for the sake of his great ones; that he was paying his court somewhere and getting—the cholic! You know what Tityrus says for himself in the lines that follow:—

Quid facerem? neque servicio me exire licebat,
Nec tam praesentis alibi cognoscere Divos.

"Would I could say of any one of those *Divi*, in your name, as he does in his own:—

Ille meas errare boves, ut cernis, et ipsum
Ludere, quae vellem, calamo permisit agresti.

"Those two words, *quae vellem*, touch me to the very heart, they are worth the whole Eclogue.

"You see what a deluge of Latin poetry you have drawn upon yourself by that half line of Virgil at the end of your letter. I cannot end mine without observing to you upon it the advantage which the copy in this case has over the original. Virgil in those five little words *dum spiritus hos regit artus*, has expressed the whole force of a line and half in Homer:—

εἰσόκ' ἀϋτμὴ
Ἐν στήθεσσι μένῃ καί μοι φίλα γούνατ' ὀρώρῃ."

Regit artus takes in all that Homer means and leaves out nothing but the particular mention of φίλα γούνατα which adds not to the beauty or strength of the image, and is better therefore omitted than expressed.

"The rise of this reflection is from the gout, which has at present laid hold of me. Should it take away the use of my φίλα γούνατα I should be nevertheless yours, because I am so while I breathe. To-day, to-morrow, always; at Bromley, at Westminster, everywhere; in Greek, in Latin, in English; and which is more, in good earnest, I am your faithful humble servant." (VII. 74.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1718, August 30[–Sept. 10]. Westminster.—"I only write this word to you, my dear Lord, to thank you for your very obliging letter of Thursday, and to tell you I am well again, *i.e.*, gathering strength, the distemper having left me; that I dined yesterday in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and will eat your venison to-morrow in my own palace of Duke Street.

"You will hear from Lord Oxford that little Tommie Haye has the small pox, of a very good kind, and is likely to do well. I doubt this may hinder Lady Oxford going into the country so soon as she proposed, but alas! unforeseen accidents hinder our strongest resolutions. My friend Dick

is eternally your servant; Batty [Lord Bathurst] will have me go next week for three days to Riskins [Bucks].

"A pox take Oventon! Who sent him to Bineger fair! My farcy horse will never be other than a runner. Pray tell the Major that. Shall I knock him on the head, or bring him down, that he may run to grass, or be a breakfast for your dogs?

"You see I have nothing to entertain you with, or I would not so soon say I am, my dear Lord, entirely and always my Lady Harriett's and your servant."

Postscript.—"Pray don't put up all the pictures till I have the happiness to see you. Adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 26.)

M[ary] Lady Lansdowne [of Biddeford] to [Matthew Prior].

[1718,] Sept. 4[–15].—"If I had been in a condition to wait upon Your Excellence as you bid my brother Harry [Villiers] tell me, I had done it before now. The request I sent by him I thought a reasonable one; it was only to have leave to take a copy of that picture [by Kneller] which you have of mine, and which you do me too great an honour to set any value upon. I hope upon second thoughts you will not refuse it. Mr. Seamen, who delivers you this, is the person whom [*sic*] I desire may copy it, and will give you a receipt for it; you may trust him, though you doubt me. I am very much in earnest in this, as well as I shall be in being if you behave yourself handsomely, your humble servant." (VII. 75.)

The Duke of Buckingham to Matthew Prior.

[1718, Sept. ?]—"For fear I should wear out your poem [*Solomon on the Vanity of the World*] with reading it so often, 'tis here returned with all the thanks imaginable for so agreeable an entertainment. But notwithstanding all my luxury at this first course, I am impatient for a second whenever you will extremely oblige." (VII. 80.)

Lord Bathurst to Matthew Prior.

[1718, Sept.?] Monday. [St. James's Square].—"Not daring to disobey your commands, I return your *Alma* by this messenger, but why you could not suffer her to stay with me a little longer, I can't tell. I own I am in love with her, but as she is immaterial and all spirit, you might, methinks, have safely left her with me; but I rather choose to follow your inclinations, though they seem to me unreasonable, than gratify my own, though very justifiable.

"Now as to my waiting on you to the Bishop's on Tuesday, I told you when I was in town that I could not, for my coach is to go to fetch my mother from Farringdon, and then we go immediately into Wiltshire. I have writ him word so, and that, as soon as I return, I would not fail to attend him; where you will be by that time I know not;

I'm sure you know less yourself, but wherever you go you will never find any one more sincerely yours than, etc." (VII. 79.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1718, Sept. 18[–29]. Westminster.—"It is with a great deal of joy, my dear Lord, that I hear you are well, and with more that I shall hasten to you, as soon as twenty complicated attendances will give me leave. In the meantime I send Mr. Ovinton my horse, that I may the better be enabled to take my journey. Pray let the steed be fairly examined by a Cambridgeshire jury, and his sentence pronounced according to his merits or defaults. I fear he will be condemned to die, in which case he must submit to fate as Socrates and other great personages have done. What I know of the matter is, that your dogs had better eat him at Wimpole than that he should eat me ten shillings a week at Westminster. The Major's horse that was sold, I think, for more than twenty pound, is worth less than twenty pence, which is another anecdote for those gentlemen of the equestrian order.

"We are all here as we used to be; my Lord Oxford will bring me to Wimpole. *Quando?* Little Dup is perfectly recovered of his small pox; *Solomon* [*on the Vanity of the World*] is almost perfected; Wanley is very good to me in his corrections, but mighty angry with the printer about filthy hooks, meagre letters and unequal lines. Dick Shelton and I drank your health last night with Bob Friend. You see I have nothing to say to you, but to make my letter of some consequence pray give my very great and very true respects to Lady Harriett from him who is ever her Ladyship's and, my Lord, your most faithful and humble servant.

Postscript.—"Service to Major. Adieu. You see the enclosed letter of attorney is very authentic. I believe the Major and Mr. Morley will find it good in law." (I. 30.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1718, Sept. 25[–Oct. 6]. Westminster.—"My letter of attorney to Mr. Ovington has, I perceive, given Your Lordship a lazy pretext for turning off my correspondence to you upon him. Now remember, my Lord, that, as we used to go together *ad stabellum*, so we should go together in our equestrian as we did then in our pedestrial affairs. I write thus far in this style, because I know the Major likes it. I violently suspect him to have been a party in writing the letter which I last received, and so does a better judge than I, with whom I dined yesterday, and am to dine to-morrow, yet with whom, too, I am not perfectly well at this present writing, because I could not dine with him to-day. We are to go to Mr. Caesar's the beginning of next week. *Bon, Mons. Prior.* We are to come to Wimpole at the latter end of the

week. *Bon, Mons. Prior.* But I will tell you, *tout de bon*, that we have finished our book, and I shall hasten as fast as I can to his dear embrace whom I love, how well I cannot express, provided he will previously tell me how he, his excellent Lady, and pretty Lady Peggy do. Adieu, my dear Lord." *Unsigned.* (I. 28.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1718, Sept. 30[–Oct. 11]. Westminster.—"I am to acknowledge yours, my dear Lord, of the 25th, and to thank you for a correspondence, which, telling me that yourself and adorable Lady Harriette are well, gives me the most welcome news I can possibly receive. I am at the last sheet of *Solomon*, and consequently very near the coach towards Royston. I have just told Earl of Oxford so; he says he will take me with him to Wimpole in few days, to which my answer may be seen, if you please to turn over *Rusticus expectat dum defluat amnis.* I am to dine in Lincoln's Inn Fields to-morrow, then the whole matter of our journey will be settled. *Dubitasne adhuc? dignus es odio cum religione tua isthac.* In all cases I will write again to you next post, and am serious whilst I tell you that in a week I will wait on you, and am every week-day, hour and minute of my life most sincerely, etc."

Postscript.—"I hope you have eat your Michaelmas goose, if you have one to spare, pray send him *cito, cito.*

"Dick is with me; we this moment drink to the healths of Lord Harley, Lady Harriette and little Peggy. When I see my Major [Foley], all equestrian and pun-ic differences shall be adjusted *à l'aimable.* Adieu, my dear Lord, once more yours ever."

Postscript signed R. S. [Richard Shelton].—"Mr. Prior does me the favour to let me add a word to his letter, in which, perhaps, he may have called me twenty rogues and rascals; but he let me so fairly see that Your Lordship did me the honour to think on me, that, whilst I return you my thanks for the favour, I beg leave to add that I shall esteem it the greatest honour to receive any commands from my Lord Harley." (I. 32–33.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1718, Oct. 4[–15]. Westminster.—"I intended to answer the exactness of your correspondence no otherwise than by releasing you from the trouble of it, by telling you directly the day when I should have the honour and pleasure of seeing you. This I had concerted as fixed as Drift, the Royston coach, earnest given, and a long *et cetera* could fix any human affair; the rest to be explained *inter matutinam théam aut postmeridianum vinum ad Winpoliam*, which will be Thursday or Friday next, the present state of matters thus standing; Caesar is in town, and to-day in Lincoln's Inn Fields, it is ordered, that Mr. Caesar goes either Tuesday,

Wednesday or Thursday, N.B., to Bedington [*sic.* cf. pp. 462, 486, *infra*], that I go with him, and from thence he brings me the next day to Wimpole. I have assented to this for the best reason in the world, *i.e.*, because I dare not withstand it; so, my dear Lord, you are to take no more care for me till you see me; in the meanwhile do me the justice sometimes to remember me as entirely yours."

Postscript.—"The coffee-house discourse of to-day is that Stanhope is or [is] to be out. I congratulate the recovery of blood-roan, so does the Earl of Oxford. Mr. Morgan is not sorry, but we are all more pleased with Bentley's farcies, which hinder him coming out of his stable than with the course which the t'other beast is to take from the stable to the dog-kennel.

"Adieu, my dear Lord, give my respects always to Lady Harriette, and service to my equestrian friends, the Major and the Squire; till I see you, then, and ever I am once more yours.

"Friends Dick and Adrian are yours; we drink your health, Lady Harriett's and little Peggy's this moment in my parlour, and are sorry that you have ne'er a goose to your A—." *Unsigned.* (I. 34.)

The Same to The Same.

1718, Oct. 9[–20].—"The pleasure of hearing from you so often—for which I very much thank you—is the greatest I can enjoy next to that of seeing you. All doubts and delays removed, I set out to-morrow morning at the hour of nine, with Mr. Caesar in his coach, from his house in Poland Street, St. Gyles, to his other house at Bedington, Hertfordshire. This I take to be categorical, positive and determined. I am to stay with him a day or two, and he, Squire Caesar, will from thence convey me to Wimple, and set me down in your porch, directed to the Right Honourable the Lord Harley, and marked upon my back, M.P.

"Bentley's disgrace pleases everybody here; to see a divinity professor rebelling against his university, and a pedant humbled, affords great subject for speculation and ridicule.

"I will perform your commands in everything, provided you will make my great respects agreeable to my Lady, and believe that I long to see you with all the ardour that an inviolable friendship can inspire. Adieu, my Lord, I am ever yours. Love to little Pearl, service to Major [Foley]. My ally Dick, and deputy Adrian, and all that any way belong to me are your servants." *Unsigned.* (I. 36.)

The Abbé Gaultier to Matthew Prior.

1718, Oct. 20. N.S. Paris.—"Le gentilhomme qui vous rendra ma lettre vous dira que nous nous sommes souvent

resouvenus de vous, le verre à la main, et que je ne cesseray jamais de vous chérir et de vous aimer ; j'auray toute ma vie une reconnoissance parfaite de toutes les attentions que vous avez eues autrefois à me faire plaisir pendant nos voyages et mon séjour à Londres : je me flatte que vous estes bien persuadé que j'ay pris toute la part que je devois prendre à tout ce qui vous est arrivé depuis votre retour en Angleterre. Vous méritiez un meilleur traitement après les grands services que vous avez rendus à votre patrie : je pourrois mieux que personne les faire connoistre car j'ay esté témoin pendant plusieurs années de toutes vos actions et de votre conduite irréprochable ; je dis tous les jours à tout le monde tout ce que vous valez et personne n'ozeroit devant moy parler de vous qu'en bons termes ; et je veux qu'on vous rende toute la justice que vous méritez, et qu'on vous doit ; et qui que ce soit ne vous la refuse me praesente. Nos anciens amis, du nombre des quels est mon grand patron, M. le Marquis de Torcy, vous aiment toujours ; toute sa famille en fait de même, et n'a point changé à votre égard. Pour moi je vous proteste que je seray toujours avec beaucoup de considération et d'estime, etc."

Postscript.—" Pour parer et orner mon appartement il ne me manque plus que le portrait de votre Grand Trésorier et le vôtre : je les auray quand vous voudrez ; soyez assuré que je feray un grand cas de l'un et de l'autre." (VII. 81.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1718,] Oct. 11[–22] Saturday. Benington.—" I am come thus far, my dear Lord, in my way to Wimpole, and am here so well received that I thought I was at your house. Cuttle, who is just come hither, convinces me to the contrary ; Mr. Caesar and my patroness are hereupon fallen out with me ; they tax me with ingratitude for having a mind to leave a place where I am very welcome, and people that use me better than I deserve ; upon the main I, who am always pacific, have endeavoured to compound the matter, and we have formed a quintuple alliance, into which Lady Harriett and Your Lordship are to be admitted, that on Wednesday morning next the aforesaid Squire Caesar, his Lady, and myself do render our persons before the hour of dinner to you the said Lord and Harriette Lady Harley, at your house at Wimpole, Cambridgeshire ; in the meantime we send Mr. Cuttle with this assurance, and charge him with our best recommendations to you both, to which I have only to add my being now and ever most particularly, my dear Lord, yours M. Prior.

Present.

Who desire the acceptance of their most humble service.

M. Caesar.
C. Caesar."

(I. 125.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

[1718, Dec.]—"The remarks upon one paragraph of the declaration of war with Spain my Lord Oxford commanded me to bring to him to-day at dinner I have lost or mislaid, as well the original as the copy taken in Drift's hand *pro solita mea diligentia et cura.* Have not you one or both of them? If so, pray send it by John, and I will return it safe; if you have not, pardon the impertinence of this message. I need not say I wish you all the happiness of a new year, but if you will let Lady Harriet know that I wish the same to her and all the good that Heaven can give or man enjoy to you both, you will do great justice to the friendship I have to you, and add a new obligation to many with which you have honoured me.

"N.B.—Little Peggy is concluded in my wish, and I am ever yours." *Unsigned.* (I. 130.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1719[–20], Dec. 29[–Jan. 9]. * Westminster.—"I have eaten your goose, the best that ever was cut, and am eating your brawn that accompanied it, the noblest that ever was nigled. I have been with Richardson; he says he has not a very distinct idea of what you left in charge with him relating to Spencer's head, and begs you to renew your commands thereupon.

"Hayes is returned from France, but as to my affair, *re infecta.* Arthburthnett was not at home, the bulk was too big to be put into a cart, the goods must come by another way, etc., etc. Silly and nonsense after all the letters writ on that subject, and hopes I had of seeing my pictures soon, but what is this to you, my Lord? Why 'tis very natural to complain to those one loves.

"I dined yesterday upon a drum *tête a tête* with Auditor Harley and talked politics till eight o'clock; if we drank your health, Lady Harriette's or little Peggy's is not a question. That grave person delights in Madeira before and at dinner, and in a bishop in a great glass after, but pass for that, *odi memorem compotatorem.*

"You will easily imagine how heartily I wish you all a happy new year, and I presume you think me always and entirely yours. When do you come to town?" *Unsigned.* (I. 38.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1719, April 14[–25]. Westminster.—"I can only tell you that I think the time long since I parted from you. I have just done what might be expected from my punctuality and good breeding; instead of waiting on my Lady Harriett at ten, I came after twelve, and instead of answering her very kind command that I should dine with her, I had pre-engaged my person to dine at home; so far right; to-morrow

*A badly blotted date led to the misplacement of this letter, which must belong to the year 1719-20. *Cf.* p. 468, *infra.*

will amend all. I have otherwise done all I ought to do; I have made my compliment to His Grace the Chancellor; *non erat domi*. I have imparted my mind to brother Wyndham, who will do it to his father-in-law. I have been to wait on Lord Carleton; I have spoke to everybody I can think of. I shall tell you all on Friday night, till which time and for ever I am *in*tirely or *en*tirely—let Wanley decide—I am yours.

"Lord Sunderland in an eloquent speech to-day has signified that the Bill of Peerage is to be dropped this session, and to be renewed the next; you will easily imagine the various sentiments that arise upon this subject. We are to dine with Lord Oxford on Thursday. I am to dine with Lady Harriette to-morrow. Smoke *we* and *I*. I hope to sup with you on Friday night, and have not one pun for my good Major [Foley], to whom only my service without the least equivoque in things or words. My dear, dear Lord Harley adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 42.)

Jonathan Swift to Matthew Prior.

1719, April 28[–May 9]. Dublin.—"I thought to have had the happiness of seeing you before this time, because my health required a journey; but whether I fancy my head is something better, or that little paltry impediments stop me, or the *sang froid* of fifty, I cannot tell; but so it is that I have passed the time and cannot be at Aix la Chapelle in May, as I intended, and writ to my friends in London that I would. But I am going to try a more lazy remedy of Irish country air, and as my return is uncertain, I thought fit to let you know that your subscribers want their books, and that your bookseller is a blockhead for not sending them. I spoke to one Mr. Hyde, a bookseller here, who has been employed that way; and they must be sent in quires consigned to Mr. Hyde, bookseller, at his shop in Dame's Street, Dublin. Pray order that they may be sent as soon as possible, and care shall be taken to have them delivered to the subscribers, and receive the second guinea. I am just getting on horseback, and have only time to desire you will please to present my humble service to the Earl of Oxford, etc." (VII. 101.)

Richardson Pack to Matthew Prior.

1719, May 8[–19]. Jermyn Street.—"I here send you an handful of daisies in return for your garland of myrtle and roses: such, indeed, is the difference between the present I now presume to make and that with which you lately honoured me. However, I will not trouble you by offering at an apology on this occasion, nor aggravate the folly of my verse by the dulness of my prose in excuse of it. When once we have had the confidence to put ourselves into the lewd hands of booksellers (who may be called the bawds of wit, and, like those in beauty, are always drawing in some giddy creature or

other to the loss of their reputation), it would be as ridiculous a thing in us authors to set up for a squeamish modesty with our friends (forgive me that I have the vanity to reckon you in the number of mine) as it would be in a woman who hath been common to the whole town to affect coyness with a person of honour in private. A frank confession is, in my opinion, much better than a lame defence. To acknowledge, therefore, the truth to you, Sir, I fell into this wicked way of scribbling when I was very young, and I have been, I don't know how, by people's indulgence suffered to run on in a kind of confirmed way of sinning. But I am resolved hereafter to take the same method of chastising my thoughts, which I have sometimes practised to reform my manners; and as I frequently, when I have been tempted to the commission of an unbecoming action have asked myself would this or that person have been guilty of it? so I will put the same question to my Muse, when she is falling into any of her idle excesses, and ask her if such a trifling fancy, such a low diction or unequal measure could have escaped Mr. Prior? The virtue of an example so edifying cannot fail either to direct or restrain me." (VII. 105.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1719, June 20[–July 1]. Westminster.—"I hope this letter will find you in good health as I am at this present writing. Pray give my great duty to my Lady, is the substance of all I have to say, for I only write to you because you commanded I should do so. The news from Scotland you have printed, and I know no more of it than that our politicians think the account very imperfect. We dined yesterday at Mr. Vernon's at Twickenham, where the company was so good and the conversation so easy that I wished you there, and so did everybody else. Batty is not well, at which I am heartily troubled. To amuse the cares of life, I, like Solomon, have set my mind upon the magnificence of building, and my stairs will be sawed out next week. I drink to your health with that great philosopher Dick, and that ingenious person Adrian. Adieu, my dear Lord, believe me with great respect and friendship." (I. 45.)

The EARL OF CHESTERFIELD to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1719, July 15[–26]. Bretby.—"I have received two letters from you, the first of which I could not answer by reason of the cruel indisposition you mention, and which has left me a cripple. By your last I find that a bright poet and a great philosopher may be overrun with the spleen; and yet I cannot blame your intended retirement, for ever since I have known anything of the world I have always thought those most happy who live most out of it; and had I not lost my hearing, yet I can assure you I would quit that stage of vanity, and because I know what the world is. What was

no more at first than *rudis indigestaque moles* is now a mass of folly, treachery, deceit and wickedness, and he that plays upon the square is sure to go off a loser. Knaves may like it, and fools may be fond of it, because 'tis the nature of the last to admire what they don't understand, just as the wild Indians do glass beads, scissors and knives, and with which they very often cut their own fingers. As for your enemies, the snarling critics, and the little would-be wits, you ought to follow the advice the last King of France gave to Mons. de Villars, viz., don't you mind what those people say. Villars followed this advice, and it made him easy when nothing else could. I have now read over your book, and since you will needs have my opinion of it, I think, if any of those that are gone before you have writ better, those that come after you will never write so well. Your beautiful ideas, and nice turns of wit are all lost upon the illiterate, and perhaps the *vere adepti*, who are acquainted with them, may (as the fox did the grapes) envy what they cannot reach, and out of ill nature find fault with what ought to be commended. Alcidiana (who, I see, is a subscriber to your book*) writes me word she is extremely pleased with your poetry; she says your figures are lively, infinitely moving, and takes particular notice of this beautiful and moving interrogatory in your *Nut-Brown Maid*.

'Are there not poisons, racks, and flames, and swords,
That Emma thus must die by Henry's words?'

I can assure you (whatever you may think) that I have no more than a very great respect for Alcidiana, and I believe that great and extraordinary lady is satisfied of it. I have often thought that when a man has ill health and grows old, he ought to look upon a fine woman only as he does upon a beautiful tulip, or anything else that demonstrates the glorious works of the creation; but I confess 'tis hard, very hard, to arrive at this pitch of philosophy. My vexations, attended with constant ill health, and the treachery of some friends and relations, has made life insipid, and altogether tasteless to me, and nothing but my not being an atheist could keep me from sending myself out of this world.

Vita miseris longa, felici brevis.

"I very seldom have any company come to me, and I am glad of it, because their conversation (if it can be called so) runs upon nothing but dogs and horses. When that topic falls, they are speechless, and put me in mind of what Mr. Dryden says of the clown Cymon in his *Iphigenia*:—

'He whistled as he went for want of thought.'

"As for the bottle, I never make any use of it (though it be *vinum* [*Hippo*] *crass, colore rubrum*), but just at dinner and supper. You may now, perhaps, ask how I pass away my time in this enchanted castle, and where I have nobody but a little

* *Poems on several occasions.* Alcidiana, formed apparently from Alcis (Minerva), most probably stands for Lady Harley.

son of mine that is but fourteen to live with me. Why, I will tell you. As I have a terrible and domestic enemy to deal with (I mean the rheumatism), so, as soon as I am able to get out of bed in a morning, I ride about my park till dinner time. The afternoon is spent in reading or writing, but whether to any purpose or not I must leave you to determine by the enclosed poetry I here send you, with a warrant for a buck, over which may Mr. Prior with my old acquaintance Dick Sheldon,

'Crown with my health the sprightly bowl,
And bright Falernum fire the poet's soul.'

"I do not question but that I am now at the end of your patience, as well as that of my letter." (VII. 108.)

Enclosing an *Imitation of Virgil's Seventh Pastoral*, and some other verses.

John Morley to Matthew Prior.

1719, July 29[–August 9]. Halsted, in Essex.—"What can my honoured friend Mr. Pryor think or I say in excuse for my omission in not waiting on the person I so much value and admire; sure none but the superior of the fair sex could have prevented my zealous inclinations.

"To increase my uneasiness I found Dame Betty had been very ill, but this day better.

"I presume the Lord and Lady Harley are retired to their country palace.

"I beg you will please to honour me with your presence, and any friends of yours, at the cottage which the Phoenix of her sex hath been pleased to honour, which I hope will atone for my presumption.

"The Sudbury coach comes every Tuesday and Saturday by five in the morning from the Spread Eagle Inn in Gracechurch Street, and will bring you to my hut in Gestingthorpe, four miles short of Sudbury, in good time the said day.

"You'll find good beef and beer,
And other country fare,
With hearty welcome there,
Please therefore to appear."

"For Matthew Prior, Esq., at his house in Duke Street, London." (VII. 112.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1719, August 18[–29]. Westminster.—"I have only to tell my dear Lord that Lady Harriett on Saturday gave me the liberty of your house, which I exercised with equal prudence as generosity, administering to Richard Shelton, to Humphrey Wanley, and Parson Jeffreys, to each—I say—one bottle of Bordeaux wine. I have since been frequently in Lincoln's Inn Fields: *sicut erat, nunc est.* Pray write to me if you intend to come hither to fetch Lady Harriett, or if I am to come to you, for in all cases I would most willingly

obey your commands. I need not tell you that, wherever you are, I desire to be with you, or that I am ever and entirely yours."

Postscript.—"The Duke of Bucks writes me word that my Lady miscarried this morning; possibly this accident may save the life of the Duchess and hasten Lady Harriett's journey to you. Dick is with me while I write this, and Adrian, who makes up the letter; both desire to subscribe themselves your servants.

R. Shelton.
Adrian Drift.

"We all give our kind service to the Major [Foley.] Pray write, because my determination depends upon your letter. Adieu." (I. 47.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1719,] August 22[–Sept. 2]. Westminster.—"Where are you, my dear Lord, what are you doing, and when am I to hear from you, are three questions very material. Everybody here that you value is well, and you have my best wishes for your health, *ubicumque*. I have a great deal to say to you, and Lord Oxford says I may do so *viva voce* in few days here. *Nil affirmo nihilque nego* is Descartes' motto, and *nil admirari*, you know, was the device of another great man. Pray, when you have one moment to spare from conversation, books, gardens, dogs or horses, let me hear a word from you, and believe that in all the words of our language, which I can put together, I cannot sufficiently express how perfectly I am yours.

"Service to Major." (I. 117.)

Robert Arbuthnot to Matthew Prior.

1719, Sept. 28 [N.S.] Rouen.—"A violent fever I have had these 10 days by-past has hindred me from answering the honour of yours of the 27th August till now. I take this moment that I am out of my fit and something into my senses to tell you that in obedience to your commands I shall put your pictures into Mr. Hay's hands when he comes to this place, and we shall order them together the best way we can. I proposed sending them to Scotland, where I could have got them run; I can send them to Ireland where they'll pay little duties; I can send them to the Isle of Man, where they'll pay nothing, or to Holland where the duties are easy.

"As to your affair with Mr. [Richard ?] Cantillon there are some of his old *commis* and hangers-on that have undertaken to pay one quarter of his debts and that his creditors should cede all his effects to them; many have signed to this, but I have not for you. Young Cantillon has been one of those happy adventurers that have got prodigious fortunes from our new stocks. He is gone over to London with 50,000*l.* sterling in his pocket; the Duke of Chandos is his

great patron and can make him pay you. He slipt his neck out of the noose and baulked his uncle's creditors by suppressing every paper that proved a society betwixt his uncle and him (or his cousin).

"There was a Scotsman that had some proof by *lettres* of the society, and young Cantillon agreed with him to deposit the money in Mr. Gordon's hands in Paris, and that the Scotsman should pursue him at the Consul's as his uncle's associate or partner, and that Cantillon should by concert gain his process, and so he be paid; this was accordingly done.

"If you had a bill or *lettre missive* writ and signed by young Cantillon (Cantillon et Compie.) he would be obliged to pay all, but otherways you have nothing for it but what we can get of the old man's effects, which will be very little, and the young man's honour and conscience, which, I fear, is yet less; however, apply to my Lord Duke of Chandos.

"Now that I have been speaking of happy adventurers, you'll no doubt think that I am one of them, but really to my very great confusion I am not. All my neighbours and fellows that I would not have drunk a bottle with six months ago are now plumb men or demy-plumb at least. I never thought that a good meal could be made out of whippt sylabob, and so I droned on in my common road of trade till the cream was so swelled that I was afraid then to meddle, though I then even judged wrong, but now I think it too late to begin. I find there is an influence or a *je ne sais quoi* upon us Tories; we never happen to do a good thing for ourselves, and seldom any for our friends; the Whigs are those who have run away with the 'rost.' Jacob Tonson has got 40,000*l.* (sterling, I mean) and I hear is to drop 'Thuanus' that he was to reprint; riches will make people forget their trade as well as themselves

"I thank you heartily, dear Sir, for the promise you make me of your book, which I esteem as a very great present. I have been obliged to part with mine to a very fine woman, who begged it of me—for I could not be without one; I know not how to be revenged on you; I owe you a great many more favours. However, if ever I write a book, you shall have one, the subject will be the character of a Tory, and it shall be only my own life these thirty years by-past, a strange chaos, I assure you. I have as great a privilege as others that have writ their memoirs. I begin to think that the fever is taking me by what I am writing, and so shall end with my humble service to good Mr. Drift, and only beg you will continue to me the honour of your friendship."

Postscript.—"Several Irish that used to be projecting in your ante-chamber are now in gilded Berlins, better mounted than any was in your time. Your painter Lebell has not yet given me either pictures or books for you, though I never see him without scolding him heartily." (VII. 111.)

SIR JAMES MOUNTAGU to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1719, Oct. 27[–Nov. 7.] London.—"Dear Mat, give me leave to disturb you a little in your retirement by making a sorrowful request to you in honour to the memory of a departed friend, for I am confident you will permit me to give that appellation to the late Lord Halifax. It is in short to desire you to send me up a few lines which you would think proper to be engraven on a marble in Westminster Abbey. The tomb is to be plain by his own direction, the place will not allow it to be large, and the spectator must not be kept long on so cold a pavement; and yet I think we must take notice of his beginning at that school, and being Fellow of Trinity College among the rest of his advancements. And I believe the Dean [Atterbury], his schoolfellow, will not be averse to have anything you think proper to be said of him to be recorded in their annals. The workmen send us word the tomb is at a stand for want of the epitaph, which makes me afresh solicit you for a line or two on this subject.

"I have had lately a quarrel with Richardson, the painter, about the picture he was to draw for me of you; for after two years waiting for it, and telling me it was just finished, which made me prepare a place for it in a new room I had made, and stands now vacant for want of it, he shows other pictures, which he has finished, though begun after mine, and thinks I am so humble-minded as to be satisfied with being told that it is for two noble lords that those pictures are drawn. But when you come to town you will make up the difference if you can engage him not to let the latter performance come short of the former, for I want a picture that may vie with old Seneca.*" (VII. 114.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, Nov. 21[–Dec. 2].—"If I should be examined why I have not writ to you in four months, and how it happens that there is a chasm in our correspondence, what shall I say? Why the truth is the best: That having had at Wimpole the best books all the morning and the most desirable company all the afternoon, plenty as much as if I had been His Excellence at Paris, and freedom as if I had been Master Prior in Duke Street, I contracted my desires—as all true philosophers should do—and seldom let my thoughts range beyond the park. Sometimes, indeed, we thought of you at the grace-cup, particularly to my Lord and Lady Oxford, then the Auditor [Edward Harley] and the Hamadryades with a very good eye towards young Spenser.

"*Namque Hamadryades et carmina nobis Ipsa placent.*

Let the young man look for the passage if he pleases, that I may not be accused of corrupting your family, for I can safely swear that at Wimpole I always took poetry from him—that

* *I.e.*, the picture of Seneca dying in the bath by Luca Giordano.

I might read it myself—and turned the young lawyer to the prose side of the library: but to the purpose. We likewise remembered Harleys by the names of Nathaniel—though Sunday was three weeks our minister said his name was Bartholomew—then we proceed to Thomas, who having been once confined intends never to stand still again—Foleys, Lord, Auditor, Pro[thonotary], and Major, to the last of whom I wish as good an estate as the first has.

"As I just now spoke of poetry, Your Lordship will have heard that at St. John's some days since I was attacked with the old hydrophobia, but that is not all; the infection spread, Caesar got it, as in the height of the distemper himself has confessed to you, it presently ran through all our College—I send you a specimen of it herein enclosed—and Apollo knows where the distemper will end; my repeated wishes are that the infection of verse may be kept from your family as that of prose eloquence from the Finches.

"I know not from whence I should date my letter, for I left Wimpole yesterday and am but just entered into my own palace, so that really my person is at London and my thought at the place I love better, but in every place where I am, and in every thought I can employ, I assure myself with great satisfaction that you believe me your servant, and that I love even my Lord Harley better for being my Lord of Oxford's son." (I. 51.)

The Same to Lord Harley.

1719, Nov. 21[–Dec. 2]. Westminster.—"I write to you because I will always keep my word with you, but what to say to you in an epistolary style, God knows, since for four months together I had the opportunity of talking with you eight hours every day, and in two days' time find I have a hundred things yet untalked.

"I am just come to town, and have had a kind admittance into my own castle, where I shall keep quiet possession resolved not to stir out these ten days, for I leave a lie at my door in the mouth of a female servant, who may as well give it to all inquisitive persons as any male porter.

"I have found more business here than might reasonably be expected, some pictures to be removed, and some books added to the library, in which matter your *Delphini Editiones*, however easily disposed in your ocean of literature, in my small rivulet of knowledge give me no small confusion of thought and occasion of dubitancy. Now the Devil is in't if this is not handsomely expressed, and if these books are not rightly placed—N.B. it is not my fault, but Drift's.

"I would change this style, and use the best of which I am master to assure my Lady of my most profound respect, and most sensible gratitude, and my dear little Lady of my love and friendship. If I take the liberty in a letter writ to Your Lordship to desire my remembrance may be made agree-

able to Mr. Wanley and Mr. Garwood, it is, that possibly, when you receive this, they may have the honour of being with you, and as to yourself, I protest to you that I know no words sufficient to express my meaning when I would tell you how much I am your servant."

Postscript.—"I met Mr. Twibull at Buntingford, and was obliged to him, as I am always to those who belong to you. Drift will not make up my letter, except I say, in his name, that he is entirely your servant; adieu, my dear Lord." *Unsigned.* (I. 53.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1719, Nov. 26[–Dec. 7].—"I thank you most heartily, my dear Lord, for your letter, and in return to it can only tell you that I am in my own house as far removed from all that is doing at London as if I were still at Wimpole; it is denied that I am in town to everybody that enquires, and it will be found by all *refiners* that I am gone from Cambridgeshire, which will make an agreeable confusion in chronology, and a fine distress for *Scriblerus*. I have only seen Brown, the surgeon, to whom I have made an *auricular confession*, and from him have received *extreme unction*, and applied it, which may soften the obduracy of my ear, and make it capable of receiving the impression of ten thousand lies which will be poured into it as soon as I shall take my seat at the Smyrna, or walk in the Court of Request as other gentlemen do.

"You may claim my company by the strongest ties imaginable, your friendship and my own inclination, but I hope you will lay your claim in here at London, the sooner the better. My great respects must always be given to my Lady, and my tenderest regards to the little one.

"N.B.—This blot was not made by me, but by Drift, and so I conclude."

Postscript.—"Ralpho [his horse] returns with the higgler glad enough, I suppose." (I. 55.)

J[OHN] NEWCOME to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1719, Nov. 27[–Dec. 8]. St. John's [College, Cambridge].—"It is my sincere opinion that nothing can be more honourable to your reputation, nor more serviceable to your interest in the whole University than the promoting our new Chapel, which is so much wanted. I was willing to keep so good a project warm, and to lay hold of the happy encouragement that is by your means afforded us. 'Tis pity the scheme should be too big to be executed, or too long delayed, whilst we have so many friends in being.

"I presume a new Chapel, much wider and longer, might be made magnificent and convenient in the first Court for about ten thousand pounds. But turning the river out of its course, pulling down a side or two of the third Court, etc.,

could not be done under thirty or forty thousand pounds, which seems a sum impracticable.

"We have some hopes that Mr. Gibbs will survey the ground and calculate the expense, but if the project cools, it dies abortive.

"And now, in obedience to your beloved commands I have thought of a person whose singular skill in the Roman tongue might recommend him to Caesar and Calphurnia; his good morals and great sincerity to Mr. Prior's friendship; his skill in arithmetic and geometry to any young gentleman's instruction; and his good nature and principles, as well as graceful person, to any honest gentleman's conversation and respect. 'Tis Mr. Parnham of our House, not two years Master of Arts, nor in orders."

Postscript.—"But oh! the postscript! beware of the postscript. My Lord of London is a great patron; Lord Oxford and Mr. Prior have the greatest interest. This is one of the Bishop's *mollia tempora*. Your humble servant was once (1708) heartily recommended to the Earl of Oxford by Dr. Gower, when he endeavoured to go to Rochester; he would now gladly be placed near the great town. Dr. Mangey is (I am persuaded) your friend and mine; he knows my case." (VII. 115.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1719, Nov. 28[–Dec. 9].—"Having wished you, my Lady and the Chara Infantula, all health and happiness, I may e'en close my letter, the rest being only to tell you I have received the venison, made a pie with the side—which is very good—and reserved the haunch for Monday *pour être bien mortifié*. I hope well from my Surgeon Brown, who begins to think that my *acroamatica* were impedited by cereal, congregated, cold particles; that is, in a more vulgar style that I hear much better since he has poured oil into my ears. I have not one word of news, God be thanked, and Ralpho knows as much of the town he came from, him [*sic*] as I do, whom he left in it. Adieu, my dear Lord."

Postscript.—"I am just going to take a piece of the pie, and drink your health *more solito*. Adrian and all mine are yours." *Unsigned.* (I. 56.)

The Earl of Chesterfield to Matthew Prior.

1719, Dec. 2[–13]. Bretby.—"I received yours of the 28th instant by the last post, which (like an ill tenant) puts me in mind of an old arrear; I mean the letter I received from you at Scarborough, and which I had then answered, but that those waters fly so very much to the head, that I was not in a condition to write to Tibullus. As for your vexations, a man of your sense and penetration cannot expect to be free from them, which makes me think that (in many respects) 'tis a happiness to be born with a callous mind

for a thinking man will always find fresh fodder for the spleen, except he could divest himself from himself, which is impossible. *Naturam expellas, furca licet, usque recurrit.* If you are unfortunate yourself, do but think how many are much more so, and would be very glad to change conditions with Mr. Prior, were it only to have his acute parts and inexhaustible vein of poetry. To lay aside Plato and Tully only to admire the perfections of a young lady is a most gallant compliment; and no doubt but she deserves it, at least she will be sure to think so, for I never yet knew any one of that sex that was wanting in a good opinion of herself, and next to beauty, and the pleasure it brings them, they love flattery. I have not heard from Alcid this half-year, and having now no amusement (for that correspondence was no more) I have given up myself entirely to the conversation of the dead, who, I think, are much better company than any of our living country esquires, noise and nonsense having always been my aversion. My health is rather better than worse, but my unfortunate want of hearing will never be better; and as I know there can be no equivalent for the loss of so very useful a sense, so it makes me very frequently wish myself out of a corrupt world." (VII. 116.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1719, Dec. 5[–16]. Westminster.—"The enclosed vote and my correspondent in Parliamentary affairs, Mr. John Hollingshed, inform me that there is a vacancy at Bishops Castle; the warrant for a successor is issued out in great haste, and the design of its being so is—I presume—to secure the election to one of the Whig party. How far you will concern yourself in this affair, I am not to enquire, but I esteem it my duty always to write to you of whatever I think may concern you, considering especially that the Auditor (Harley) is not yet come to town.

"Auditor Foley did me the favour to see me to-day, and is, as usually, your servant.

"Morley and Shelton, two philosophers of very different geniuses and studies, dined yesterday with me, unhappily enough for me that treated them both with exceeding great humanity, for falling immediately in love with each other, neither of them took any further [notice] of my person or hospitality. Morley, finding that Shelton knew one Mr. Williamson, who had a son in the East Indies who might do some service to Morley's son, desired Shelton to present him to Williamson; Shelton said he would with all his heart. Here I unhappily subjoined that this very Williamson was the person who had sent Lady Harriet the antelopes. 'Is it so?' says Morley to me, 'then pray, Sir, hold you your tongue, for I am as well acquainted with the antelopes as you or any man, and I will only take this honest gentleman (Mr. Shelton, dear Mr. Shelton) to bring me acquainted with this 'tother

honest gentleman, Mr. Williamson'; after this it was in vain for me to urge that I knew Mr. Williamson, that I had sat with him at the Custom House, seen him with the Earl of Oxford and Lord Harley; *Niente per Dio!* I am to have nothing to do in the friendship of this new triumvirate, and they are to see each other on Tuesday at a tavern in the City without me.

"For domestic news you have a pipe of Madeira in your cellar; for parochial, there were two bills put up last Sunday at St. Margaret's Church, one for Mr. London lying very weak, t'other for Mrs. Cornwallis troubled in mind; for national, the Bill of Peerage will—everybody says—be thrown out. Adieu, my Lord, when you give my great respect to what Margaret Tudor was*, pray add that I cannot form a wish more favourable to yourself and friends than that Margaret Harley may be what Harriet is." (I. 58.)

The Same to the Same.

1719, Dec. 15[–26]. Westminster.—"I did not answer yours of the 10th by the last post, because I had obeyed your commands but imperfectly. I have spoken to Bobus concerning the pictures, I shall see them in a day or two—if I will—I find there is no price set upon them, and that the matter is to be referred to me, of which I thought fit to advise you before I give any judgment, for I would not have you give too much for them, and on the other side I know you design an indulgence to the widow of a man whom you loved.

"Bob [Freind] has writ the prose inscription for the lamp, and we had a friendly squabble last night about the verse.† He says my last of the four is harsh, *i.e.*, he can't stuff so much excellent sense—as I told him—into two stanzas of sapphic; well, the last verse is made softer, the four are turned otherwise; Gibbs shall have the whole *debito tempore*, and all is well, to the great satisfaction of friend Dick, who sat by last night while we drank your health—if he pledged it is not a question—and said sneeringly he would not for fifty pounds have had an animosity arise between the greatest Latin scholar and the best poet in the whole world, both of them being his most particular friends.

"That philosopher has a nephew a Demi of Maudleine and a divine, who would rather pray, it seems, near Candish Square than anywhere else. Mr. Garwood will judge if what he desires be reasonable. Dick has told you himself he has laid your Madeira into your cellar; it is incomparably good; I have ordered the payment and will account upon it to Your Lordship.

* "What Margaret Tudor was, is Harriet Harley now." From Prior's 'Verses spoke to the Lady Henrietta-Cavendish Holles Harley in the Library St. John's College, Cambridge.'

† See *Matthew Prior. Dialogues of the Dead and other Works in Prose and Verse*, ed. A. R. Waller, M.A. (Camb. Univ. Press, 1907), p. 146.

"However careful I may seem of managing your purse, I have put you to the expense of a guinea; Southern, my old acquaintance, having asked my assistance in getting him off with some tickets for his *Spartan Dame*, I took one for you, though—as I told him—you were not in town, and he is to make his compliment to you for your favour when you come.

"As to my printed phiz. Vertue promises very fair; he has had a great deal of business; he would have it perfectly well executed; Adrian solicits him hard on the subject; Adrian sends you some copies of the verses enclosed, and uncircumcised, in which notion he perfectly agrees with Mr. Wanley, and adds that the whole is always more beautiful when when the letter stands in the middle of the frame; he longs for your future commands. I am with great truth and respect Lady Harriett's servant, and Peggy's *de tout mon cœur* Where is the Earl of Oxford? Adieu, my dear Lord."

Postscript.—"A hue and cry for John Morley, of Essex, who parted some time since from his friends at London, supposed to be a little whimsical. Dare I after this add my respects to the Duchess of Buckingham and let Her Grace know from what I knew on Sunday that Lord Normanby is well?" *Unsigned.* (I. 60.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1719,] Dec. 16[–27]. Wednesday.—"I return your papers, my dear Lord, *bona fide*, and my thanks for Camden and South *imo corde*. The latter I am very deep in, and very fond of; for what can better employ a man indisposed, and consequently out of humour, than a good deal of morality mixed with some ill nature? I hope my cold is going off; give my great respects always to my Lady, and claim that entire friendship from me to which you have so just a right; adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 135.)

The Same to the Same.

1719, Dec. 19[–30]. "Vertue has brought me the proof of the portrait, which I and all that see it think to be mighty well done; he has really surpassed anything that I ever saw of his graving. I will send it by the higgler, and a future account of it in a post or two.

"I have seen the two pictures at Dr. Friend's, one is of a good hand, Flemish—I think one of the Van Halst [Van der Helst]—but it is only a portrait of a soldier to the waist, not quite a half-length; the other is a small piece of a Madonna and a *Christo Infantulo* [*sic*]—I believe it to be of Carlo Maratte [*sic*], but by no means his best manner. I hinted to you that the new made friendship between Shelton, Williamson and Morley was signed, and that I was left out of this triple alliance; it has proved so in effect, for last night,

I received a blind letter from Morley, and therein enclosed two warrants for does, one to Shelton and t'other to Williamson; so far all was well, but while I had the honour to distribute this venison, what was I to eat? mutton.

"I went to Dover Street last night upon a better account than to expostulate this grand affair with Morley. I had not the honour of seeing my Lady nor could be so unreasonable as to desire it, when I heard she was to go away at four this morning: but I received to-day a note from the delinquent Morley, in which he has got the omission as to the doe rectified; for which, however noted in jest, I most seriously thank Your Lordship and my Lady, who is, I hope, safe arrived at Wimpole, and will, I believe, esteem me always her faithful servant. I hope little Lady is well, her cousin Dupp[lin]s are so; Lord and Lady Kenoule [Kinnoul] are on their road from Scotland, to make some very short stay in Yorkshire before they come hither." *Unsigned.* (I. 62.)

The Same to the Same.

[1719–20.]—"Dick Shelton and I drink your health, he in pure wine, mine allayed with water and toast. I send your lamp; pray send me all the news, rip-raf, *Postboys*, *Flying Post*, Bangor or Bentley, etc. Service to Ladies great and little. I hope to see you to-morrow." *Unsigned.* (I. 129.)

The Same to the Same.

1719–20, Jan. 2[–13].—"Wishing you and my Lady and the little Margaret all the happiness of this and many new years, and thanking you for yours of the 31st December, I proceed to business. Christian has showed me your seal; it is very fine; if the angels are heraldic or heathen, Mr. Wanley and he [*sic*] must agree, and so she [*sic*] prayed me to tell you; Adrian engages to put the impressions up so as that they shall not be spoiled in the carriage.

"I am of your opinion as to the staring letters at the bottom of the print; I think that and other virtuoso or connoisseur affairs had better remain *in statu quo* till you come to London; when that will be is the question.

"The *Spartan*, or, as they call it here, the *Smarting*, *Dame* has just done Tom S[outhern']s business, and both he and the town are satisfied it has been acted, and are not troubled that it is laid aside.

"Your partiality to *Solomon* and *Alma* is very delightful to me, for that my Lord Harley loves the author is better than any other sort of merit.

"I can neither get Tonson nor Barber near me, they will neither send out my books, nor make up accounts. Dick Shelton is dining with me, I leave writing to drink to our good and dear friends at Wimpole. God for ever bless you, adieu." (I. 72.)

JONATHAN SWIFT to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1719–20, Jan. 25[–Feb. 5.] Dublin.—"I have been long pursued with one or two disorders, which, though not very painful, are so incommodious that they quite disconcert me, and among other effects make me so lazy and listless that I can hardly mind the affairs of my friends, much less my own.

"Since I begun this letter I have been so pursued with a giddy head that I could not finish it. I had yours of the 10th of last month with your verses on my sister Harriet enclosed. I have more obligations to her than you, and yet never gave her any verses, because it is not in my power to say as you *carmina possumus donare.* I begun some when I was in England, but it being not quite six years, I could never finish them since. No thanks to you for your good verses with such an advantage, when your Muse was your subject, and was present. Send her over here to St. Patrick's, and you shall see *me quoque vatem.* What do you tell me of a plenipotentiary? all that is a parenthesis. The Muses found you at St. John's, and there they meet you again. If you write no better verses than your enemies do prose, 'tis a pity but you were a plenipotentiary again. I wish your subscribers in this kingdom could as well answer your complaints as you have done theirs; but I find them much backwarder in acquitting themselves of their second payment than their first. But it is the disease of the country; first they shew vanity and good will, and secondly poverty. *Ut Gallorum subita sunt ingenia.* But my ill health is a good deal in fault; though all methods of advertisements and solicitations of friends have been employed. Two remedies I shall apply; one is a little more time, and t'other that if they will not pay their second subscription, their first shall be disposed of to others, who come at the tenth hour of the day. And in the meantime I will take care of the most convenient season to return you what we have already mustered up. As to myself, I have not yet health enough to go to England for more; I have been a month subject to a deafness, and it is with hearing as it is with riches; and a philosopher would have it though he despises it, only to have it in his power to make use of it when he pleases. I extremely long for Lord Oxford's picture, which he promised me a hundred times. His Lordship is poor, but has rich friends, and may give me his, if ever he performed one promise he made in his life. I beg you will no further solicit him than by reading this to him, and desire his answer: but Kneller or Dahl shall be the painters.

"You are to understand that the French pistole you sent me from Paris above six years ago to drink with your cousin is now safe in my cabinet with my other rarities; and that I never spoke to him in my life but once, in the castle of Dublin. I have upon second thoughts blotted out his name as you see, because he is a person in office, but very obnoxious, I suppose

chiefly for being related to you, and durst never drink a bottle of wine with me; and so that pistole and meeting are reserved to other junctures. I hear he is well and is a very honest gentleman.

"I had a letter t'other day from Mr. Auditor Harley upon a most important affair of recommending a singing man to my cathedral, which (if you see him) you will please to say, I will answer soon. I wish he had spent a line or two to tell me of the health of the family, it would have been more like a Nathaniel."

Postscript.—"You are bound to present my most humble service particularly to your two favorites, and my two brothers my Lord Harley and Lord Bathurst." (VII. 119.)

E[LIZABETH Countess of] SANDWICH to MATTHEW PRIOR.

[1719–20,] Feb. 28[–March 10.]—"What Solomon with all his wisdom and all the graces you have adorned him with could not do, the first sight of your sweet face performed in a moment; all sullenness vanished, I immediately changed places, put myself in the wrong and you in the right, and am impatient to thank you for the agreeable surprise you gave me to-day. I admire the painter, though I don't see his colours, the attitude, and the lively expression of the figure, which is lost in black and white*; but above all the near resemblance to the original, and I find by all this there remains more kindness in my heart for him than I was aware of. I had rather the world were mad than dull; good for anything I am sure it cannot be. I imagine the grand dance in the *Rehearsal* marching to Exchange Alley, law and divinity taking vast pains to cheat, and in the end be cheated also.

"I admire the present taste in pleasure. What can be a more suitable entertainment for the unbended hours of the great than the politeness, the wit, and dignity that reigns in masquerades? And yet for all these temptations I am perfectly easy in my solitude, and want only more *Almas* more *Solomons*, and more *Damons*, to make it a life of pleasure as well as happiness. Well, but now I reflect that after talking so much and so impertinently to you (the last man upon earth one should take that sort of freedom with), 'tis fit I should take my place in the foolish world, but wherever my fantastical stars shall throw me, I beg you to believe that I am, with a constant esteem, your, etc." (VII. 122.)

DE LA MANLEY to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1719-20, March 19[-30].—"I have deferred till your coming to town to return my most humble thanks for the honour of your letter, and for Lord Harley and Lady Harriett's bounty.

"I have received several marks of your favour, and had not been thus late in my thanks, if I durst have intruded myself before; but as I often begged my acknowledgments

* Prior had sent her an engraving by Vertue of his portrait by Richardson.

might be made by those persons that recommended my interest, so I hope there has been so much justice done me, that I do not stand in your esteem either as one insensible of benefits or ungrateful.

"Through Lord Chamberlain's wise management a play I had designed for the town is deferred till the next season. To make me some amends they have promised me to revive *Lucius* for my benefit; and gracious Mrs. Oldfield has agreed to speak that admirable epilogue you honoured me with, which must ever claim my most particular acknowledgments. But that lady, being something diffident of her performance, as much reason, however, as she can have for the contrary, enquired how she might be instructed by you, and said that rather than lose that advantage she would wait on you herself. Next Tuesday the play is to be rehearsed; I should be glad to know your sentiments, and be able to carry her your commands." (VII. 127.)

The Earl of Chesterfield to Matthew Prior.

1719-20, March 19[-30].—"I am to return you my thanks for the very acceptable present of your picture and poetry, and at the same time congratulate your felicity in being blessed with the friendship of the finest gentleman of the age; and no man of your understanding can, or ought to repent that he has been unfortunate once in his life, when it convinces him that he has really such a friend in the world as the Lord Harley. In prosperity we are apt to be blind, and very often hug the flatterer instead of the friend. But adversity quickly flings us back upon ourselves again, and sets everything in its true light, but, perhaps, with no more satisfaction than a looking-glass to a fine lady just after the small-pox. It's true that nothing could shake the friends of Cato; they continued faithful to him to the very last, in spite of adversity; and Cato himself expressed the sense he had of that happiness. But he was a Roman, and we are degenerated Britons. What we call a great man (I mean wealthy) here among us, is (generally speaking) a patron to pimps, buffoons, parasites and sharpers, while men of parts and learning may starve or beg their bread. Just like our great ladies, who take more care of their monkeys, lap-dogs, squirrels and parrots, than of their children or relations; which puts me in mind of Caesar, who, when he saw some great ladies at Rome hugging lap-dogs and monkeys in their arms, pleasantly asked a bystander if those ladies were past child-bearing. I once had the impudence to ask a fine lady the same question, and upon my word, Mat, she never forgave me. I have put your picture into a frame and placed it where it ought to be, next to my old friend Mr. Dryden's, who once sent me his picture with such a present as you now favour me with, and I put a value upon it, which upon my word I should not have done had it been a fulsome dedication to myself, and which some

of our senators are grown so fond of, that, if a poet out of modesty forbears to abuse and expose his patron with flattery, he immediately becomes his enemy; for no adulations can be too gross for these idols, who, puffed up with windy titles and glaring equipage, think themselves something more than the rest of mankind, when, indeed, they only make themselves less by it. How often have I seen that worthless ill-natured pigmy Buckingham strut, look big, and fancy himself a giant, because that poor poet Mr. Dryden (while he lived) was pleased to carry His Grace upon his shoulders, and yet common porters in the streets were much better paid! Another of these vain boasters (as they tell me) has put this motto upon his coach: *Nec minor invideo.* Is this done to show the world that he understands Latin, or to put us in mind that His Lordship's grandfather was no less than the common hangman of Ireland?

Postscript.—"My humble service to my old acquaintance Dick Sheldon, and pray let him know that, as soon as venison comes in season, my park at Wing will be at his serivce." (VII. 87.)

Jonathan Swift to Matthew Prior.

1719[–20], March 24[–April 4]. Dublin.—"The person who delivers you this is the son of Sir Theobald Butler; the father is one of the most eminent lawyers among us, and hath an appeal before the House of Lords to be heard on the 6th of April. His adversary is one Lady Pendergras [*sic:* properly Prendergast], sister of Cadogan, and the greatest widow Blacacre now in Christendom. I desire the favour ot you to speak to some lords of your acquaintance to attend the hearing, because it is of very great consequence to Sir Theobald's fortune, and he is very confident of the justice of his cause. He is one of my flock upon the Deanery, a gentleman universally beloved, and therefore I could not refuse him this good office." (VII. 89.)

Matthew Prior to Lady Margaret-Cavendish Harley.

1720, March 29[-April 9]. Wimpole.—

"My noble, lovely, little Peggy
Let this my first epistle beg ye,
At dawn of morn and close of even
To lift your heart and hands to Heaven.
In double beauty say your prayer,
Our Father first, then *notre Père*,
And, dearest child, along the day,
In everything you do or say
Obey and please my Lord and Lady,
So God shall love, and angels aid ye.

If to these precepts you attend,
No second letter need I send:
And so I rest your constant friend." (I. 64.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1720,] June 4[-15]. Saturday. Down.—"I hope you got some victuals at Cheston to recompense the oddness of your entertainment at Down; but you were pleased with John's cookery, and that is the best service he can do his master. I am here, and continue to stay till your return out of Buckinghamshire; if you have any commands for Drift, who brings you this letter, he is ready to receive them. I am much in solitude and calculations, and in every state of life, my dearest Lord Harley, yours entirely."

Postscript.—"My very true respects to Lady Harriette and friendship to my little Lady are never to be forgotten." *Unsigned.* (I. 103.)

Richardson Pack to Matthew Prior.

1720, June 9[-20]. St. James's Street.—"The gentleman who will deliver this letter to you hath a good deal of merit in his profession, which is painting, and I should be extremely pleased if he might be allowed to employ his skill in drawing a picture, which I shall never view without recalling to my mind a thousand agreeable entertainments I have received in reading the works of the best poet in our nation. Should I find that I have credit enough with you to obtain this favour, I shall have the boldness to ask another, by desiring you to communicate the same request from me to Mr. Congreve and Mr. Pope (whom I have not the honour personally to be acquainted with) that I may have an opportunity of placing their pictures where I shall their poems, in the best room in my house." (VII. 128.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1720, June 16[-27]. Westminster.—"According to your order I direct to you at Bath, though according to the rules of correspondence I should not write till I had heard from you: I am less angry with you on that account than otherwise I should have been, since friend Morley assures me that Your Lordship and Lady Harriette are well: I hope—to use Sir Humphrey Polesworth's* style—you will shortly be repairing: our little Lady Peggy is well: and here my epistle might end in the Ciceronian manner, *valetis, valemus omnes, bene est;* for I have nothing to add but that I am going to dine with John [Duke] of Bucks at a sort of *convivium poeticum*, for Pope and Gay are the other two guests. I have Gay's works and Milton's as well for Lady Harriette as yourself, and in my consummate prudence I have judged it better to keep these books together with Gyles Jacob till I see you, than to send them rambling round the country after you. I invited the *virtuosi* t'other day, Gibbs, Wanley, Wooten [Wootton] and Christian†; the two first could not come,

* *Cf.* Portland MSS. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) *Harley Letters and Papers*, iii. 554.

† *Cf.* p. 477, *supra*, and Nichols' *Lit. Anecd.*, ii. 248.

and the two last could not be got away till midnight; dirty Dibben, of Dorsetshire, and the Archdeacon of Bath were of the company, as well to bless the meat as to drink great share of the claret; Morley assisted in tea. It was a conversation about five o'clock, a disputation towards seven, and a bear-garden about ten. We drank your healths over and over, as well in our civil as bacchanalian hours. My wishes for all happiness to you are constant and my friendship inviolable." *Unsigned.* (I. 65.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1720, June 18[-29]. Saturday morning.—"It is with great pleasure that I hear from Mr. Thomas of your health, and beginning your progress: *I pede fausto* and be happy in every thing: I am this moment going with friend Bingley to Chessun and Down. How do you like my preamble which I send you? I hope I may one day do for you what I have therein done for my patron Dorset: adieu, my dear Lord; I am ever and entire yours."

Postscript.—"Let Morley, John, of Halstead know that I forgive him at this distance, but hate him when he vexes me." *Unsigned.* (I. 67.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1720, July 2 [-13]. Westminster.—"Wherever this letter meets you, it brings you my best wishes for your health, and my astonishment that I have not heard from you. I would not have anybody, not even yourself know, how uneasy I have been and am upon your silence: pray write. I have been at Down, surveyed the estate, and done everything—as to taking a rent-roll, discoursing my tenant, &c.—that Morley calls wisdom. It is impossible to tell you how beautiful a situation Down is, and how fine the wood may be made; but for the house, as all the cross unmathematical devils upon earth first put it together, all the thought and contrivance of man cannot make a window to be looked out of, or a door to be shut, in case it were made otherwise habitable: so sooner or later I foresee *destruit domum;* but of this, as the divines say, at another opportunity.

"I hope you have seen Welbeck and other houses of your own so strong and lasting that you may not have these sort of considerations, and upon this account you would do well to write a word to me, for I really rejoice as much in what you possess as in what may be called particularly mine.

"News from hence you expect none; the town is a desert, and the world is crammed into Change Alley. All your friends desire most heartily to be remembered to you: Roffen. [Atterbury] and Bob [Freind] are referred from the Chancery to the Common Law, where they may spend as much money as will build a college before they are certain where it shall stand. Adieu, my dear Lord, I am ever yours."

Postscript.—"Squire Morley is in health, I hope, and by travel and experience knows a strong brick house from one built with rotten loam. Gyles or George Jacob brought me to-day two *exemplaires* of his two volumes of Poets Dramatic and Poets Epic, for which I have in your name, as you ordered, given him eight guineas: he dedicates one volume to John [Duke] of Bucks, but John has not been *Maecenatissimus* to him." *Unsigned.* (I. 73.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1720, July [9-20]. Westminster.—"Not having heard from you, I thought I was very angry with you, and had writ a letter to tell you so, when I received yours from Aywood. That killed all my resentment, and convinced me that we most easily forgive where we love most truly. I hope this will find you at the Bath in health, with Lady Harriette in health likewise, for I have really no greater satisfaction in life than in desiring all happiness to you both. I hope my Lord of Oxford's gout will at least have produced one good effect in keeping him safe from any other distemper. John [Duke] of Bucks, whom I this day saw, has always the same heart and good breeding, but is *valde mutatus* as to his health, but this is to you only, for no man makes his compliment that even thinks of anything of this kind to him. As to Down, it is really fine; to make it habitable will be the question. *Deus providebit*, to which I shall add all human means by commensuration, hortification and edification, but nothing more than projection upon paper till I shall have seen you, which I very much desire to do.

"As to the pecuniary, I have five hundred which you may command at a minute's advice; I disposed of the rest, not having heard from you, but can retrieve it in a little time upon your ordering me so to do. *Vive et vale*, I am ever and inviolably yours."

Postscript.—"Dick sends his respects." *Unsigned.* (I. 75.)

[W]ILLIAM] EDMUNDSON to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1720, July 15[-26]. [St. John's College, Cambridge.]—"Last week Mr. [John] James came down to take a view of the ground for the Theatre and King's College, and was desired to pay a visit to our Master, but his business would not allow it. I could wish a plan was drawn, and proper application made to those persons from whom we have expectances; for if the project drop, after so much has been said about it, it will be a very difficult matter to bring it to bear again.

"The Dean of the Arches [John Bettesworth] supped with me last Saturday; he has a great zeal for the College, and has promised to use his best endeavours with all his friends in our behalf, whenever we go about it. Dr. Needham, I think, is now in town; can you prevail with him to address

my Lord Orford, who is a St. John's man, and declines apace? Upon which account an immediate application seems necessary; and this is not his case alone; which makes it reasonable to be as expeditious as possible; but I [am] aware that this need not be said to Mr. Prior, who has the cause so much at heart, and no doubt has considered how it may best be advanced. I heartily wish us all success in our solicitations for the old House, whose interest I shall always be ambitious to promote.

Postscript.—"As to the sizar's place, if you are not at liberty to give it to Boughton, I shall put any other person into it that you shall be pleased to recommend, and take the very best care that I can both to improve his learning and secure his morals." (VII. 129.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1720, July 21[-August 1]. Westminster.—"I last night received yours of the 17th from Aywood, and immediately obeyed your commands, having Sir Robert Child's note for five hundred pounds; so you may use it as you please; the remaining sum upon a little warning I shall be able to secure, for I need not say that it is with equal justice as pleasure that I desire to serve you in everything.

"I have not seen the face of Morley since my last to you. I am going to dine with the Caesarians. N.B. I always write in a morning. I am to be with Tom Harley, but in the old way of incertitude as to the fixed *quando*. All the world is paradox; Bingley exclaims against me for thinking of building anything at Down, and then talks of a saloon of thirty feet upon thirty, and an ante-chamber and bed-chamber.

"I long to see you, and for that reason have purchased a companion for Ralpho.

"You must give my great respects to Lady Harriette, and if she has any commands before her coming to town, I desire to be honoured with them: you must also continue to believe me for ever yours."

Postscript.—"Richard and Adrian are honoured with your remembrance; we drink and wish your health. Adieu.

"I am heartily glad to hear Lord Oxford is better." *Unsigned.* (I. 68.)

The Same to The Same.

1720, July 29[-August 9]. Westminster.—"I began to feel a kind of desire to be angry with you for not writing when yours of the 27th quite appeased me, and I think I love you better than ever I did. Lady Harriette's being well has given me so perfect satisfaction on both your accounts, that I intend to issue out a general pardon to all who have injured me except Morley, whose delightful face I have not seen since the first morning he came to town.

"My Lord Oxford will not be offended at me, if I wish heartily that his indisposition may terminate in a formed gout, and that I had rather have him sometimes in pain than always lame.

"Lord Bathurst's proceedings with the prose man is admirable; 'tis a picture. His Lordship having chid me that I never saw him, and desiring me to ride over to Riskings, I did so on Monday, and when I came thither I found he was gone to Cirencester the Friday before: good again. I think this may be added to the piece. The remnant shall be ready; you have only to order it.

"And now I come to the best part of my letter, which is, that I paid my little Lady a visit to-day; she is in admirable health and humour, and desires her duty may be remembered to Papa and Mamma. Mrs. Walton charges me with her compliments to you both, and if I add my own, you will believe me, more than words can say, yours."

Postscript.—"N.B. Not one word of Down. 'Tis all reserved *in petto* till I see you." *Unsigned.* (I. 70.)

C[aleb] Parnham to Matthew Prior.

1720, August 5[-16]. Benington.—"Be pleased to accept a grateful acknowledgment of your favours, with which you distinguished me at a time when I was a perfect stranger, and for that reason could entertain no hopes of them.

"Your interest and kind offices have placed me in the midst of those pleasures with which Benington abounds, and everything confirms (what you formerly said in one of your letters to Cambridge) that this family, whoever knows, must love. My business here is to teach the young gentleman mathematics, and I make no doubt of giving such an account of him as will turn to my credit."

Postscript.—"Mr. Newcome is in good health and presents his service." (VII. 130.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1720,] August 9 [-20]. Ryskings.—"I am at Riskings with Batty; we drink to your health, moderation: I have no news from London but that we expect the Earl of Oxford here on Wednesday, and from hence he will then convey me to that sink of iniquity and sea coal; from whence—if my own wishes were to be obtained—I would be separated for ever. I hope you are well and pleased: I need not say that wherever I am, I will always love and serve you."

Postscript.—"Kind service to Major." (I. 116.)

The Same to The Same.

[1720, August ?] Saturday, 11 o'clock.—"Pray, my, Lord send me a parcel of news Anglican and Gallican of all sorts and the five volumes of the *Bibliothèque Angloise*—I think you

call it—for which I will be accountable. If you come this way before two, I shall be at home ; if not, I will wait on you at dinner, to receive Lady Harriette's commands, upon a supposition that your resolution of going on Monday holds, though I hope it does not.''

Postscript.—'' My six volumes of Léonard's *Collection of Treaties.* A water colour picture. Item, a rug coat due a year since. Item, six sets of the drawings of the lamp.'' *Unsigned.* (I. 154.)

The Same to The Same.

[1720, Sept. ?] Saturday morning.—'' I have invited the virtuosi Gibbes, Wooton, Bridgeman, and Dayl [Dahl] to sit an hour with me this evening. I am glad always to hear from you, but particularly when I was just sending John to desire you to crown our feast with your presence. I intended to go no further to-day than to my Duchess of Shrewsbury ; if you come our way, I shall be at home till one, if not, I hope to see you at seven in Duke Street.''

Postscript.—'' If you have any *nouvelles*—you know this is the day—pray read this letter in the enclosed journal.'' *Unsigned.* (I. 173.)

The Same to The Same.

1720, Sept. 2[-13]. Cue Green, near Richmond.—'' You see, my dear Lord, by the place whence I date my letter, that I am with my nearest relation, very kindly received, and I may add, every meal remembering with great respect Lady Harriette, Your Lordship and little Peggy. I have been very graciously received this morning by la Principessa; before I came from London I purchased the little heads I showed you, I presume to your satisfaction, and at least not to your ruin, for Madam Maintenon's head is purchased for less than five guineas. N.B. It may be an original but could be her maiden head.

'' I am going from hence to visit Duke Dorset, and thence I shall be able to take my measures as to Mr. Cossens' meeting me at Down, and returning with me to Wimpole, for I find already a great hankering that way.

'' I thank you for my water-colour and *Bibliothèque Angloise,* a *non est inventus* is, I suppose, put upon my *Collection of Treaties : sic visum est superis.* Pray write to me, and believe that I wish nothing more passionately than the welfare, honour and happiness of Lord Harley and his family, and that I am ever yours.'' (I. 77.)

The Same to The Same.

1720, Sept. 10[-21]. Westminster.—'' I have Your Lordship's of the 7th, for which and a thousand other things I return you thanks. I am in with Gibbs and the *virtuosi,*

one of whom is to give me a meeting in few days at Down, for plan, measure, &c., and in few days from thence I hope to send over for Mr. Cossens, *ad opus inceptum et continuandum.*

"Yesterday the world was in a panic fear; the South Sea ebbed hourly by fifty and sixty down to five hundred; but the apprehension vanished as insensibly as it came on; the stock rose again to above six hundred; the Alley rung with huzzas and things go on *sicut olim.*

"Friend Dick is swimming in another gulf, that of Carolina. Adrian and all here are very zealously and truly yours. I need not add that I am most sincerely Lady Harriett's and, my Lord, your most obedient servant.

"Service to dear friend and honoured Peggy." (I. 80.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1720, Sept. 13[-24]. Westminster.—"Yesterday John Morley, Esquire, entered my palace, and immediately made his exit; the Lord knows where he has been buying and selling; with him I shall settle one part of our pecuniary affair, and for the other part Your Lordship and myself will do it, when you come to town.

"I shall want five hundred, for I must pay that sum the 14th of October: if you can give order for it, I shall leave my direction with Drift as to the disposal of it here, that the thoughts of the mammon of unrighteousness may not discompose my mind at Wimpole. *A propos* to my coming I shall have a *virtuoso grand jardinier* to meet me at Down in four or five days; the precise time himself does not know; and I must wait it; from thence I shall be able to take just measures for Mr. Cossens' coming over to me, and my returning to Wimpole with him, for which I very much long.

"Gibbs has built me a house, I will bring it over with me; as soon as I shall have finished this letter, I am to go to sup with Dhayl [Dahl], Wooten [Wootton] and Gibbs above-mentioned, to talk of buildings, pictures and—may be, towards the close—of politics or religion; but the chief design of our meeting is to drink to my Lord Harley's health, whose servant I am always. My great respects to Lady Harriette, and friendship to her Peggiety [*sic*] are never to be omitted.

"If you have any commands that you would have me execute before I leave London, send them to me by next post. Adrian is your servant, I should not otherwise be his friend. Adieu, my dear Lord, adieu.

"Lewis is in town; he says, he shall hardly be able to wait on you this season at Wimpole." *Unsigned.* (I. 82.)

The Same to The Same.

1720, Sept. 15[-26]. Westminster.—"I always esteemed you a real friend, but had never so much reason as now to praise you for a constant correspondent: I have yours of the 12th, for which I return you—as for all—my thanks.

"I long to be at Cambridge—that is right—or within six miles of it—that is true—: a man may love his mother, but had rather live with his friend.

"After this preamble, I cannot answer to the kindness of your question, 'when will you come?' till towards the latter end of next week; I shall then be able to quit this abominable town, my *operator hortorum et sylvarum* will then meet me at Down, and Mr. Cossens will set us right, and bring me to you. I will bring all you command with me; we are all yours.

"South Sea falls, notwithstanding which the merchants are insolent and the Ministry despicable in the city.

"Gibbs and my *operator* above-mentioned sup with me, and I shall wish all health, and happiness to dear Lord Harley, Lady Harriette and my lovely Peggy, within half an hour after I tell them that I am their servant.

"Surly Dick and supple Adrian are yours. Pray write to me; adieu. Morley, I presume, tells you he is in town, and that is as perfect an account as I can give you of him." *Unsigned.* (I. 84.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1720, Sept. 17[-28]. Westminster.—"I write to you, my dear Lord, that I may keep touch with the most exact correspondent in England: pray mind that you have that character ascertained under my hand.

"I have so far settled matters with my *virtuosi* that I shall see Down, and bring Gibbs over with me to Wimpole within eight days from this in which I write. We shall fix it so far that the next post I shall beg your calasch to meet us at Buntingford, and tell the very hour when I thank you as to the pecuniaries, which render my coming more certain and easy.

"Sturbridge fair, my God!

O quis me gelidis sub montibus Æmi Sistat! &c.

"I send you a copy of verses written by young Moore, the son of Arthur. I am with true respect to Lady Harriette, and friendship to yourself, ever and ever yours. Adieu.

"I need not trouble Mr. Cossens till I shall have spoken with him at Wimpole." (I. 86.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1720, Sept. 22[-Oct. 3]. 2, afternoon. Westminster.—"I did not write to you by last post, my dear Lord, for everything was in such confusion, as to the pecuniaries in Change Alley, and South Sea, that I did not know what to say; but the confusion still remains, and I must be longer silent—I find—if I stay till I know what to write on that subject: all is floating, all falling, the directors are curst, the top adventurers broke, four goldsmiths walked off, Walpool

and Townsend sent for, that they may settle matters; *sed adhuc sine successu:* and every man with a face as long as a Godolphin's; *vogue la galère;* I must fare like the rest.

"Pask, you will have known, is dead: I have written a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, which he will, I presume, communicate to the University.

"I leave all this chaos and complaint to-morrow morning, and calesch it with Gibbs—taking Down in our way—so that we will be at Buntingford on Monday morning. You will please therefore to send your calesch to Buntingford on Sunday evening, that on Monday morning we may find it there, discharge our London equipage, and come over to Wimpole, where I long to be, whatever becomes of South Sea stock or Cambridge politics.

"I hope the Cardinal is still with you and will be so some time after Monday.

"Mist's simple story has raised a thousand impertinent questions as to the truth of it.

"As to the *unmoored* verses, I sent you the best I had. Life, pleasure and satisfaction to Lord Harley, Lady Harriette, little Peggy; grace to Stratford; amen; adieu, till Monday.

"Dick and Adrian salute you, we are going to drink to all your healths, for, *nota bene*, I always write my letters before dinner." *Unsigned.* (I. 79.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1720,] Sept. 22[-Oct. 3].—"When a man writes at noon, 'tis ten to one but he is forced to contradict himself at night; this is, therefore, to desire that Your Lordship would send your calesche to Buntingford on Saturday night, so as to bring us over on Sunday, and let us stick our knives in your beef at dinner, for we shall come not to *pray hare* [*sic*] but to *dine hare* [*sic*]. Gibbs' affairs are the reason of this change in our great designs, and I am heartily glad that I shall have an opportunity one day sooner of telling you that I am every day and all the day yours." *Unsigned.* (I. 147.)

The Same to The Same.

1720, [Sept. 27-Oct. 8]. Tuesday morning. [Down].—"We could come the last night no further than Hockerell, so lay at my Dame Games': just arrived at Down, eight in the morning, very well, and going to breakfast, regret the leaving Wimpole. This is the best account I can give Your Lordship of myself since I left you; sincerest duty and respect to Lady Harriette, *mille compliments à la petite ange.*"

Postscript.—"Mr. Bridgeman adds his duty and respects to you and Wimpole. We have talked of nothing but canals, parades and vistas from Wimpole to this place." *Unsigned.* (I. 146.)

The Same to The Same.

1720, Oct. 15 [-26]. Saturday. Cambridge.—"I thank you for sending my letter, for remembering me, for everything. As to my affair here, the divisions multiply so fast, that I think all will end in the Whig interest prevailing. I will tell you the whole matter on Monday, which I long mightily for; the Vice-Chancellor after many *estocades* against me has produced a letter from the Chancellor that the University choosing me at this time will do a thing that will be a reflection and prejudice to them: I have taken this occasion to get off, for that I never intend to do anything but what should be for their interest, but *que faire?* I think there is an end of my matter, and shall drink on Monday night to the tranquillity of Cambridge and the honour of Oxford: my only satisfaction is that these wise and honourable men have not been able to involve you in this labyrinth, from which I step out with great ease into the plainer paths about Wimpole and Down. A pike you shall have on Monday, and good roast beef, but for wine there is not one drop in the town but what is sour or port; upon this you may use your own discretion, *praemonitus, praemunitus.* To-morrow, you know, is *pray here,* on Monday *dine here.* Service to dear school-fellow, respect and love where due, an eternal friendship to Lord Harley: adieu."

Postscript.—"Saturday, noon. We this moment sit to table and have already drank your health." *Unsigned.* (I. 88.)

The Same to the Earl of Oxford.

[1720.]—"I have more than ten times set pen to paper to write to the Earl of Oxford and have as often desisted; the reason was, I presume, that I found I had nothing to say to him; I still heard from Lord Harley that you were well, and from the Auditor that you did not intend to trouble us, having a strange taste of liking your own paternal seat, fine woods, good books and what company you please better than Westminster, Change Alley, mistaken politics, and the conversation of pickpockets and stockjobbers. I tell you plainly for your comfort, you are not likely to be disturbed in your solitude. . . . . we shall sooner send your Ma[gna] Charta men down to their res[pective] homes, than have any pressing occasion for them here; so pray enjoy [your] *otium cum dignitate,* as you have had enough of the *negocium non sine periculo:* while others build their fortunes on that basis whereon a scaffold was to be erected for the Earl of Oxford.

"All this while I have a great hankering towards the cider country, and hope to wait on my friend Tom Harley this summer to taste of the Scudamorian grape, as Philips called it; but I have absolutely given up my free will to Lord Harley, and am to take my progresses with him, like Horace's friend.

"*Nil habeo quod agam, et non sum piger, usque sequar te.*

"The truth on't is I love him mightily, but that is no merit on my side, for everybody does, that knows him; nay, 'tis rather the effect of vanity, for everybody sees he loves me. Among all the favours which you could do me, if you were again Treasurer, and in power, I should thank you [more] sincerely for none, than your [letting] him know my sentiments [on] [tha]t subject, for being perfectly [sensi]ble of his friendship, I am less able to speak of it properly to himself.

"For public strokes I refer you to Messieurs Buckley and Mist; I am just now told that the Duc de la Force is coming over to congratulate the King and Prince upon the late reconciliation, and that Mr. Law will send his son on this occasion to [see] England."

"Dear Dick is as ever yours, and is endeavouring to get you some Madeira; he and my friend Adrian join in their good wishes for your health; this is all the service we can do you.

"I must give my great respects to Lady Oxford, and to every feminine Harley in Herefordshire, as likewise my kind service and friendship." (I. 121.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1720[-1], Dec. 29 [-Jan. 9]. Westminster.—"The continuation of my journal stands thus; we have laid out squares, rounds and diagonals, and planted quincunxes at Down. *Chacun a sa marotte*, and that farm will turn my brain. We found some remnants of old claret there. Whose health did we drink? All at or belonging to Wimpole. We are just come to London, and I find myself and all my family, that is, four people and a dog, well: I likewise find a collar of brawn from Wimpole, though I had my share of two of [its] predecessors while I was there; *quid retribuam pro tot tantisque beneficiis?* Why, nothing but my thanks, my best wishes to Lady Harriette, and her beloved daughter, and the repetition of being ever the friend and servant to the master of the family; adieu.

"My kind love to Mr. Thomas." *Unsigned.* (I. 92.)

The Same to The Same.

[1720-1,] New Year's Eve, Westminster.—"Health, happiness and friendship to you and Lady Harriette—*ma chère ange* not excepted—this year, henceforth, and for ever; the like may be said to every man under your roof, or any way appertaining to you. I have by way of epistle, not being able to perform personal visits, given Lady Harriette's compliments to the Duchess of Buckingham and Lady Morpeth; I have sent by Drift your little commission to Aschough. Drift had like to fight with him for a receipt of the packet, without which he scrupled giving it to him, but Ascough

promises by next Tuesday to obey the content of your commands, so that war is amicably composed, and I hope you will have your orders obeyed, and your Almanac new bound.

"Pray read these London Journals which I send you, and of which everybody here is so fond as to imagine very great men to have a share in composing them. Comical! my dear Lord; the nation is robbed, and the quarrel now is about the spoil. I shall continue to send you these Journals, for Drift assures me they are very well writ; he will have me say too that he wishes Your Lordship and Lady Harriette a good new year, and I take his orders in this affair, because I think they come from the bottom of his heart. Dick Shelton accosted me this morning; when I asked him why [he] had not writ oftener to us, he replied that writing was nonsense, and before a good deal of company he told me that I looked very well, and that my boil had done me good. I did but touch upon South Sea, and he asked me what I could expect better from a conjunction of scoundrels at Court with sharpers in the City; so, you see, whatever may change, Dick is *semper idem*.

"Adieu, my dear Lord, pray write to me and believe that the pleasure of my life is to be yours ever." *Unsigned.* (I. 123.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1720-1, Jan. 3[-14]. Westminster.—"You will easily believe, my dear Lord, that I received your letter as a very grateful new year's gift, since it told me you are so near coming to London; till I see you, therefore, I will not trouble you with any particulars from this great Bedlam, but reserve all till I shall have the honour of your visit, and you may be sure to find me at home *propter rationes medicinales*. Tudway, paragraph by paragraph, is, I own, a good scene; shawms and hautboys with dulcimers and Jews' trumps must need make an agreeable melody, and if tuned to the notes I hear daily of 'damn the directors, hang up Aisleby, break Janson and Lambert on the wheel—as in their countries they would have been served'—&c., would make an excellent grand chorus. I have some pamphlets, almanacs, &c., which I don't send, since you will receive them here.

"My duty to my excellent Lady and love to little Lady are never to be omitted, nor ever can be sufficiently expressed; to yourself I have only to say that I am ever and ever yours.

"Service to Mr. Thomas, if alive after the doctorial battle. Dick dines with me and Adrian; we are all three drinking your health, and wishing this and many happy years to all the Wimpole family. Francis [Bishop] of Chester is well, and likes the epitaph of *his grave was his ground*." *Unsigned.* (I. 95.)

GILES JACOB to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1720[-1], Jan. 6[-17]. Golden Wheatsheaf in the Old Baily.—"I herewith send you a collection of Poems, written by

the author of the *Lives of the Poets*. I have presumed to dedicate them to you, Sir, as the least I could do in return for those great favours I have received from your hands, and which I shall always acknowledge with the greatest gratitude. I hope my presumption is not inexcusable. Where Mr. Prior is concerned I am sure of an indulgent usage; and I desire the few errors of the press, particularly a literal one in the Dedication, may not be imputed to my negligence, but that of the printer, as it ought.

"After an industrious attempt to write the lives of you gentlemen who excel in the noblest productions of the sublimest art, it will be the less admired that I should also attempt to imitate you in spirit; though I am sufficiently sensible of my own deficiencies, and that there is no more comparison between my performances and yours than there is between a weeping spring and a rapid stream; but considering I (with some modesty) inform the world they are my last of this kind (in my *Farewell to Poetry*), I hope the readers will be the less severe in their remarks and observations. I heartily wish you a speedy recovery from your present illness, and that you may have many happy new years of health and prosperity."

Postscript.—"My poem entitled *Human Happiness* is the performance I have mentioned I had by me, in manuscript, in my *Lives of the Poets*. I have chose to be my own messenger to enquire of your health; and I shall do myself the honour to wait upon you at a proper time." (VII. 117.)

John Dennis to Matthew Prior.

1720-1, Jan. 10[-21].—"I had the honour sometime since to send you some proposals for the printing a book of Letters by subscription, but having forgot whether I sent the two first sheets of the book or not, I send them now.

"I have likewise sent you a translation of the Seventh Satire of the Second Book of Horace. My friend who translated it desires to have your opinion of it, whom he esteems one of the best judges in England of these matters. My friend's translation caused me to enter into the nature of the Horatian satire, and to consider the opinions of the commentators concerning the three ancient remaining satirists, who in my humble opinion have been all in the wrong, as has likewise Mr.——

"So soon as these thoughts are in writing, I should be inclined to send them to you, if I thought it would be agreeable. I hope to wait on you in a few days, and then I shall be able to come to a resolution." (VII. 132.)

The Earl of Chesterfield to Matthew Prior.

1720[-1], Jan 25 [-Feb. 5].—"I have received the favour of yours of the 14th instant, and I was very glad to hear

before it came to my hands, that Mr. Prior (for I must ever wish him well) had declined coming into the Senate at this time of day, when an honest man is so far from being able to serve his country, that I cannot but fancy he must be something out of countenance to find himself in the company of so many knaves. If my memory fails me not, there is in Æsop, the fable of a Fowler who taking poor Columbo [*sic*] in his nets among the crows, put him to death, with this severe reprimand before execution: 'what had you to do among them?' If Fabritius, Paulus Æmilius, Mutius Scaevola, and the rest of the old Romans were now in being, can you think they would care to have places in the Senate? No, they would humbly beg leave of the House to return to their Sabine farms and the ploughtail again. Such men are not fit to be employed in this age, and for the same reason that Fabritius gave to Pyrrhus why he would not be his Prime Minister. 'Sir,' said he, 'this can never be for your service, or advantage, for they who now honour and admire you, when they have had the experience of me, will rather choose to be governed by me than you.' Should true patriots be let into the Senate in the room of those who are not so, what a strange change and *fracas* might not that make? I have sometimes laughed (for who can be always a Heraclitus?) to see young men, and some of them of good parts and principles, so mighty fond of being Senators, that they had rather be thought knaves and fools themselves, than not sit among those that really are so. It puts me in mind of some of our vain modern coquettes, who cannot forbear running into any new fashion, though it does not become them half so well as the old.

"As for the MS. you have favoured me with, I think it entertaining enough, but I cannot say it has that spirit and vivacity, which shine through Mr. Prior's other writings, particularly his curious *Maid*, which was lately sent me as yours, and from a friend of yours. When faction is prevalent, and prejudice runs high, I cannot but think it an ill time for an honest poet to write, or print what he writes, since he is sure to suffer by the malice and partiality of faction and parties; which makes me glad to hear that you are now amusing yourself in making fish-ponds, and cutting vistas through your woods, which I take to be a much better employment than burning a man's fingers when he may keep them out of the fire." (VII. 118.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1720-1, Jan. 28[-Feb. 8]. Saturday evening.—"I this moment receive the enclosed [missing] which comes from the Lords and must needs be very agreeable to the Commons; this is but the *Primitiae iniquitatis*. I hope to see you on Monday, and am every day yours.

"Thank you for nouvelles, &c. Goodnight." *Unsigned*, (I. 96.)

Dr. Thomas Tudway to Matthew Prior.

1720-1. Jan. 29[-Feb. 9]. [Cambridge.]—"My last to my Lord [Oxford] related to Bently's performance, in which in one particular, I was misled, viz., that Bently had mistaken his adversary, and fallen foul on Dr. Colebatch; whereas, that varlet did—not mistake him, but—knowingly and wittingly take an opportunity to fall foul on the Doctor with the most scurrilous and abusive language Bently himself, that master of ribaldry, could invent. The Doctor has vindicated himself in a short paragraph or two, in the *Postboy* of Thursday last, which, I make no question, you have seen, and has taken therein an occasion to declare Dr. [Conyers] Middleton is the worthy author of that excellent performance. This, he says, Bently knew full well, but was not willing the world should think Dr. Middleton able to write a piece of so much learning, and thereupon casts a slight upon him and calls him the musical Conyers. The world will soon see him exposed and set off in colours befitting him; in the meantime, he is like to have the mortification to have his book censured here, by the Vice-Chancellor and Heads, as an infamous libel. This, the Vice-Chancellor told me himself, was his design, as soon as he could get a competent number of the Heads together. We have lost our friend and old acquaintance Dr. Otway, who died on Friday last, after a sickness of three or four days. He fell into a kind of torpor and lethargic fit, caused by a voracious stomach and indulging himself in eating. We took forty or fifty ounces of blood from him, but it was so thick, and without serum, that it was perfectly stagnated. This loss of our friend suspends all, as un-*à-propos* and *contretemps* at present."

Postscript.—"Be pleased to make my most dutiful respects and service acceptable to my good Lord and Lady and little incomparable Lady." (VII. 133.)

Charles Gildon to Matthew Prior.

1720[-1], Feb. 15[-26]. Bull Head Court, Jewin Street, Aldersgate Street.—"It is now a week since I presumed to trouble you with a manuscript tragedy and a letter to beg your mediation and recommendation of it to my Lord Harley and his Lady, that is, provided it met with your own approbation, which I flatter myself it would do, because it moves the passions in so eminent a degree, which is the chief excellence in that way of writing, and so allowed to be by all ages till the present, when we have had a sort of grammatical critics arise who have put the diction or language upon a foot with it, nay, who have made the diction, though scarce taken notice of by Aristotle, the chief mark and characteristic of a good or bad tragedy, and such a sort of diction, which, though correct enough in itself, is yet by its uniformity scarce tolerable in this way of writing, if we may give any credit to Horace, Boileau, and even to the nature of things; for tragedy, consisting of the

representation of different passions, must of necessity vary its style according to the nature of each passion which it brings on the stage. But this is a subject of too large an extent for a letter, and considering the knowledge and judgment of the person I write to, wholly superfluous. I must confess that there may be some bold metaphors of Mr. Lee's which I have retained in this alteration, and which I choose rather to do than to deviate too far from the genius and spirit of my author, but I hope they are not many nor so great but that the excellence of the passions may sufficiently atone for them. It was by this quality alone that Otway fixed his immortal reputation with all but the verbal critics, and I think I may say that after Otway the tragedy under our consideration claims the next place in that particular; but I forget myself. If this play wants an apology to such a judge as Mr. Pryor, I am sure it deserves none. If it does not, it will sufficiently recommend itself. I therefore only once more beg, that, if you approve on't, you would recommend it to my Lord and Lady Harley's perusal and patronage."

Postscript.—"I would have waited on you myself, but that I have been long confined to my chamber by blindness and lameness and a very infirm health." (VII. 121.)

The Earl of Chesterfield to Matthew Prior.

1720[-1], March 1[-12].—"Your entertaining an unfortunate deaf man in his retirement with elegant poetry is really very obliging; but I am so ill a judge, that I doubt 'tis thrown away upon me, and your favours of this kind no better placed, than if you had presented a drawing-room fop with an accurate edition of Virgil or Horace, when the poor creature hardly knows his Horn-book. I look upon the poem you have now sent me to be a brilliant of the finest and the clearest water (as the jewellers call it); and I do believe that the poets of the next age will be as fond of imitating Mr. Prior, as he can be of rivalling Spenser. Most poets only shine in the dark, but you justly claim that privilege while living, nor has the world denied it you. The young lady in your poem is very nicely complimented, if not flattered, and indeed it ought to be so, for they are charming creatures to look at, and so is a serpent with fine scales upon its back, till it hisses and stings a man. I am now (as I may tell a friend) under the displeasure of a rattle-snake, upon the account of some poetry she lately had from me, and of which I here enclosed send you a true copy. My crying sin is what I have put in the margin of the poem: hum a gigg: the meaning of which is this. A certain duke when he courted this lady two or three years ago, told her among other fine compliments, that he would hum her gigg, which was taken so heinously that fool and Garter were both rejected, and my playing the fool with a fool, is now taken as ill. All I have to say for this is the old Italian sentence:—

Fortuna me tormentò, spero [*sic*] me contentò.

"I am concerned to hear of your losses in that national gulf of destruction, the South Sea; but had it been worse, I look upon your good fortune in the world to exceed your bad, since it is not every poet's talent to be honest and faithful to his patron. And how few poets in the world have ever found an Oxford, or a Harley, for a patron? I hope you and your learned patron will live to see white days, and should I live to see a time come when I may have interest enough at Court to serve Mr. Prior, I shall then say with the poet :—

'Quod optanti Divum promittere nemo
Auderet, volvenda dies, en attulit ultro.'"

Enclosing verses *To a lady in the country.* (VII. 124.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

1720-1, March 16[-27]. Westminster.—"You may take it for granted that it is always with great pleasure that I hear from Wimpole when the master of it is there, and with greater that Inglis assures me that in a week I shall be released from all fundamental contracts here, and free to change situation of place, and enrol myself of the equestrian order. I am glad Bridgeman has begun so well, he says he will make it the finest and noblest thing in England. The garden side I find he has a mind to be at; he does not open yet, but I think it is rather enlarging than much altering.

"The enclosed [missing] contains last night's work in the House of Commons; the matter was stoutly battled, but numbers overcame. Hanmer spoke angelically, and Hutchinson reflectingly.

"This the right copy of John [Duke] of Bucks' *Epitome*, at least as I had it from Pope; various copies run about, and everybody comments on it *pro libitu;* Franco objects against it being put up.

"Bob's [Freind] cause is put off till Saturday sennight; it is warmly solicited on both sides.

"I had written thus far when I issued forth, and had the honour to dine with Lady Harriette. Her Ladyship and dear Peggy are very well.

"Hence I proceeded to Mr. Wooten's where I met him, Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Bridgeman; these three, and they expect Sir James [Thornhill] to be of the same opinion and design, set out on Saturday morning towards Wimpole. I shall hear from thence how long you intend to stay there, and from what you concert I shall be able to determine my coming towards you, as I have already said, within eight or at farthest ten days. I and the above-mentioned gentlemen drink your health, and so does Adrian at home.

"Service to sedate and determined Master Morley, if with you." *Unsigned.* (I. 98.)

JOHN DENNIS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1720-1, March 17[-28].—"I have been severely handled by a violent cold ever since I waited on you last."

"Mr Watts sent me word yesterday that my book would be finished next week. I therefore desire, Sir, that, if you have had an opportunity to dispose of any of the six receipts which I had the honour to send you some time since, you would have the goodness to let me know it; and that, if such an opportunity has been wanting, you would have the goodness to return the receipts."

Postscript.—"I lodge behind the 'Ship' tavern at Charing Cross, and anything directed to be left for me at the bar of that tavern will come to my hands." (VII. 135.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1720-1, March 18[-29]. Saturday night, 11 o'clock.—"I believe you have your *virtuosi* by you while you receive this letter; as they were packed up in one coach, they must necessarily have come together, or else—if it were possible—Gibbs would have come about three hours after the rest. Sir James [Thornhill], I presume, has rather been speculating in the chapel he is to paint, than praying in the neighbouring church, and friend Bridgeman's devotion has consisted chiefly in contriving how the diagonal may take Waddon steeple exactly in the middle; of Wooton I have little to say till I become a horseman, which may be now, I think, in few days; he shall then paint me upon Ralpho, and when any other hand can copy it as well as he has done my King Charles, I shall think him less a master than I do now.

"I can send you no news; old Craggs is gone after young Craggs; he had the sauciness to take opium in great quantity, because one of his betters had done so a fortnight before, as Cadogan bought up the vintage of Tokao because the Elector of Bavaria did so some years ago: *Dii boni in quae tempora nos reservastis?*

"Every man says and writes what he will; one kills Portman Seymour, who is not sick; another puts up Edward Lord Harley for burgess of Leim'ster, which by the by is yet better than the blunder of that beast of Queen's who in his preface to Tully *De Divinatione* calls you Thomas. Of all dunces the greatest is a mere scholar, and of all mere scholars the most stupid is a critic.

"How do you like Jack Ketch's letter in the *London Journal*? Pray write to me, for I shall now be able to square my motions by your direction, as I always desire to do; for one is easily guided by those whom one loves. All here are well; Adrian, while he makes up this letter, drinks your health with me; the bellman that takes the letter goes by; the mutton chops are just upon the table; so good night." *Unsigned.* (I. 100.)

John Dennis to Matthew Prior.

1720-1, March 23[-April 3].—"I had the honour this day to receive a very obliging letter from you, with four half-

guineas enclosed. You may depend upon it, Sir, that I shall not be so much wanting to myself as to omit inserting the catalogue of your noble friends in my list. I return you ten thousand thanks for all your favours.'' (VII. 136.)

MATTHEW PRIOR to LORD HARLEY.

[1720-1], March 24[-April 4.] 8 at night, Friday.—'' I this afternoon—Friday—receive the favour of your letter, and by it am not very perfectly acquainted with your motions; I shall conform myself to Mr. Bridgeman's convenience, and be at Down on Monday night, where I will wait his coming. I write you no news; the Emperor would send Knight* home, if the States or Brabant may be prevailed with: I shall wait on Lady Harriette to-morrow, and write to you again to-morrow night. Mr. Shelton, Adrian and I drink your health, which I wish for ever; adieu.'' *Unsigned.* (I. 152.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1721, Lady Day, Westminster.—'' By Mr. Bridgeman's letter to me I find he will have executed your orders by Monday; as I would always do what is most convenient to you, I have appointed to meet him on Wednesday afternoon at Down, and will accordingly set out hence on Wednesday morning. Bob Friend's cause comes on next Tuesday; Franco grows worse every day; Lord Cooper moved yesterday an address to the King to order the imports and exports of custom for six years past to be laid before the Lords; Bathurst seconded it extremely well and brave, and both descanted upon that part of the Speech which said our trade was in so flourishing a condition. I thank you for all favours, I am pretty well. I hear Sir James [Thornhill] has made a ballet; it is fine to have an universal genius; adieu.''

Postscript.—'' Drift will not let me be quiet till I have added his great thanks to you for remembering him.'' *Unsigned.* (I. 102.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

[1721.] Lady Day, 10 at night.—'' This letter, my Lord, only confirms what I wrote in the morning, that I would meet Mr. Bridgeman at Down on Wednesday, with this only change of circumstance that Lady Harriette tells me she sends away the coach on Monday, and is kind enough to ask me if her so doing will be of any use to me: it will be so, and of the same use to you, if I come in it to Down on Monday, and it comes to you on Tuesday morning, or, as it may be convenient to the coachman, on Monday night. Lady Harriette does not write to you, having written so lately that nothing occurs since. I have only to add that I write this from Dover Street, that my great and little Lady are well and that I am ever with great truth yours.'' *Unsigned.* (I. 150.)

*The Treasurer of the South Sea Company, then absconding in the Austrian Netherlands. See Cobbett, *Parl. Hist.* VII. 709.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

[1721, March 27-April 7]. Monday afternoon, Down Hall.—"I am just arrived here after a delightful morning and five hours' easy driving, I only wanted the master of the coach with me to have made the journey perfectly pleasant: I shall expect the *operator* Bridgeman here on Wednesday, that is, in case you have no commands for him, for I am not in haste. I know not directly when your journey is determined to London, so can only wish you a good voyage thither. I will tranquillize here some days, and measure ground and build houses upon paper with Drift. Ever yours.

"All at Dover Street are well." *Unsigned.* (I. 149.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

[1721]. Easter Eve.—"I beg Your Lordship to excuse my not waiting on you to-day at dinner: I have a cold and sort of spring ague. Inglish has given me a drink for three or four days, and confines me a prisoner to his dose. Pray send me all the Anglicans and Gallicans you can spare: wishes for all your healths.

"Ever yours and a merry Easter to you." *Unsigned.* (I. 140.)

HUGH STANHOPE to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1721, April 6[-17].—"When I waited on you yesterday, about a subscription for Memoirs of the Life, &c., of the late E[arl] Stanhope, you were pleased to say, that you wished I would undertake to write a Life that would recompense my pains, and gain me more credit. This, Sir, may pass with some people for a kind expression, but to me, it carries the air of a French compliment. Can any man expect to gain more credit and advantage than from writing the Life of one who was universally known for his uncorrupt loyalty and fidelity to his king, his untainted zeal for the real good and welfare of his country, and his known abhorrence of bribery and corruption? And that the E[arl] Stanhope was such, is what his very enemies acknowledge. I am very sensible, that to write the Life of one of those unhappy lords, who justly forfeited their heads for being concerned in the late Rebellion, would be very agreeable to the taste of many, and meet with great encouragement, especially from those who were employed by some of the late Ministry to pave a way for bringing in the Pretender. I beg leave to observe, that to reflect on a person deceased, though obliquely, is very unbecoming the character of a gentleman; and they who now cast aspersions on the Earl Stanhope, would not dare to say half so much to his face, had he been living." (VII. 138.)

JOHN DENNIS to MATTHEW PRIOR.

1721, April 11[-22]. Charing Cross.—"I was so unfortunate on Sunday night as to have a visit from a writer of half-penny

doggrel, who lodges near Pye Corner, some of which doggrel he has lately had the folly and the impudence to dedicate to you, and to brag of your approbation of it. This scribbler told me that you and Mr. Congreve were mortally affronted at a letter writ to the late Duke of Buckingham and printed in the book about to be published. As I had a little indignation to find myself accused of affronting gentlemen to whom I am obliged and whom I have always esteemed, by way of requital for this news I turned the rascal ignominiously out of doors.

"Sir, as the book is now ready I desire that you would send to the bookseller for it, and then upon reading that letter you will find that no man in England has reason to take anything ill which is in that letter but that vile scribbler himself; but being a very insignificant wretch, he is willing to father his resentment upon you and Mr. Congreve, and, to gratify his own wretched malice, embroil me with you and him. (VII. 139.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1721,] May 2[-13]. Tuesday.—"I am better as to my cold, and hope to have the honour of receiving your person and commands to-morrow. I am obliged to wait on my cousin to-day, to help to settle her affairs, which are—bad enough; I return your *nouvelles*. If you please to send me the *Revenge** and any other stray papers, you will oblige me in small things as you always do in the greatest; adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 136.)

The Same to The Same.

[1721, May 3-14]. Wednesday morning.—"I have sent my excuses to Mr. Caesar, who invited me to dine with him to-day; indeed I am not well enough to go further than my cousin's to something between a dinner and supper, and cards; admirable!

"Pray send me some old *nouvelles*, of any sort, and I hope you will see me to-morrow: I am every day yours." *Unsigned.* (I. 137.)

The Same to The Same.

[1721.] Sunday morning, 10 o'clock. Down.—"I receive and answer yours, my dear Lord, the same minute. I have no greater pleasure than to hear you are well, and can receive no greater honour than Lady Harriette's compliment. I have always told you what would be the effect of our northern policy, and am sorry to be found so true a prophet, but more of this when I see you; you do not say anything of going to Wimpole; I begin to fancy you love the town as much as you say I do the country. Indeed I plead guilty to the accusation, and if you were not in London I should not envy

*Young's Tragedy.

my Lord Mayor all the honour the Guild can give him, but rather converse with Wilborow, the brickmaker, than with His Lordship and his brethren at that end of the town, or with most of the politicians in the Court of Request. I am so employed that the day seems short, and so much in love with Down that I think I shall pardon my countryman Morley for being the innocent cause of turning my brain, but this shall be left as soon as I have set my matters in a little way of going on, and my affections will soon turn to Wimpole when I hear my Lord Harley is tending that way. I am ever with true respect Lady Harriette's and your servant."

Postscript.—"Dick Shelton is with me, and we jointly drank your health, Lady Harriette's, little Lady's, Morley the Squire's, &c., with the miller last night after we had paid our workmen. Adieu, my Lord; pray let me hear from you. Adrian is proud to be remembered by you; he is at work for you; he hates country affairs." *Unsigned.* (I. 119.)

Giles Jacob to Matthew Prior.

1721, May 18[–29].—"Having since my *Lives of the Poets* wrote and finished a book in my profession, entitled a *Treatise of Laws or a General Introduction to the Common, Civil, and Canon Law, &c.*, containing thirty-five sheets in octavo, above one hundred and thirty Latin maxims in the Common Law, and the like number of heads in the Civil Law, &c., from Justinian, &c., which book, if I myself can pretend to judge of my own productions (either by my labour or otherwise), is the best I ever wrote, and so completed as to be useful to all gentlemen and noblemen; I should take it as the most generous friendship, the kindest service, and greatest addition to your former favours, if you would please, Sir, at this time (when I have been forced to leave the town for my health, and have very lately felt other misfortunes) to think of some person for me for a patron, to whom it might be acceptable by way of dedication. I have some thoughts of my Lord Harley and the Duke of Dorset, but want your advice and assistance for my guidance in this affair. If you think you can recommend me to some patron fit for my undertaking, I will send you one of the parts printed, especially that treating of the Civil Law and Laws of Nations, which, perhaps, (though you are well acquainted with our laws in general), you may best judge of, and by reason of its great equity find greatest satisfaction in. I beg the favour of your answer as soon as conveniently you can, for that the proprietors are impatient to see the event of my labours, and the whole will be printed this week or the beginning of the next at farthest; and I intend you a present of one of my books. I have lately fallen out with Mr. Dennis, on account of his inserting among his Letters a dedication to the Duke of Buckingham, designed for my *Lives of the Poets*, reflecting on the memory of Cowley, which you and Mr. Congreve both disapproved; but

he says they are all fools as pretend to find fault with it. I was imposed upon by Mr. Stanhope, and ask your pardon; I shall not for the future presume to send to you on such an errand."

Postscript.—"I have been very ill for above a fortnight of a pleurisy, but I thank God I am now upon recovery. I lodge at Mrs. Carpenter's in Rowford's Buildings, near the Church, Islington." (VII. 140.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

1721, June 8[-19]. Down.—"I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 5th, which was the most welcome thing Drift could bring me. I hope you had a pleasant journey into Buckinghamshire, for I would have all your ways pleasurable, and all your life agreeable. I desire my respects always to be given to Lady Harriette, I would add likewise to Lord and Lady Cheney—in case this finds you at their house—for I would have all your and Lady Harriette's friends know that I love them for being such.

"Hélas! notre petit chat est mort! we are here to-morrow and gone to-day [*sic*]: if Your Lordship and D. Sh—— have no greater losses to sympathise in than the death of your coach-horses ye are not much to be pitied; I know no advice to give His Grace in this behalf, not having had the honour of conversing much with him since the 500 pounds' bill, but I may tell you that the best way to save your future *dragons* is to make your journey to Wimpole two days, and take Down for your half-way house, which I hope may be effected in eighteen months, for I have already lopped the tree that is to make the plank that is to saw the timber, that is to floor the room where I hope you will be within the time aforesaid. Your *O rus! quando te aspiciam?* is admirable before you had been two days in the town; you may laugh at my solitude as much as you please, but I like it infinitely, and shall do more so when the noise of the axes and hammers to the tune of five pound a week grows less tumultuous; but Down in itself considered I love more than Tully did his Tusculum, or Horace his Sabine field, nor would quit it for anything, but to be with you or to serve you. As you have been kind enough to ask Drift for my address, pray make use of it, remembering that to hear from those one loves is (next to seeing them) the greatest satisfaction; adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 105.)

The Same to The Same.

1721, June 14[-25]. Down.—"I have yours, my dear Lord, of yesterday, and hope this will find you and Lady Harriette safe returned to Dover Street, after the pleasure of a fine journey, and no coach-horses lost; I repeat to you that Down, being your halfway house to Wimpole, will save your cattle, and be the best inn you can sup at, for which reason I am

now planting salating, and setting my eggs under the miller's hen; the kitchen-garden this year, the apartment of three rooms the next, and what then? Why, what Mons. Fouquet said to the late Queen of France when she asked him what he was building at Vaux. 'Only a stable, Madam,' he replied, 'where your horses may bait in your way to Fontainebleau, and if I add a pavilion, 'tis because there are none but thatched houses in the village.' Lady Harriette may apply this piece of history, but pray let us carry the parallel no further, for Fouquet was removed above two hundred mile from his house, and lay in prison above twenty years in Pignerol, commenting upon the Ecclesiastes. I have done that already, you know, in verse, and Morley himself was never so unreasonable as to ask for another volume of *Solomon*. However, he may expect the second part of the *Ballad of Down*. Wherever that noble youth of Essex is he may understand that I am making a stile at the end of Great Hilly Field, where the cattle got in, and did a power of wrong, to be sure, and putting brushwood under the old gate, where they plaguy pigs crept into the pease-close. I would stay here a little longer, as well for the *utile* as the *dulce*; for, since we have begun, we must not neglect, and *redime te captum quam queas minimo* is as good sense in domestic affairs as in war; in the meantime your paragraph of the South Sea makes my heart ache a little, and poor Lawton's death gives me another real trouble, but *que faire?* I will be vexed at nothing while I enjoy your friendship, and I will live no longer than I will strive to deserve it: I have tired you with a long letter, though I had nothing to say to you, when I begun it, but that I am your servant; adieu.

"Drift is working for you, and begs his great respects may be given to you or else he will not fold or superscribe my epistle. Pray write to me on Saturday; *vive et vale.*" *Unsigned.* (I. 107.)

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1721, June 22[-July 3]. Down.—"Friend Richard, being called from me by his loyalty to his King's and other great affairs, charges himself very readily with this affectionate letter, which is only to tell you I constantly wish health and happiness to you and my Lady, with dear remembrance always of little Peggy. Your last deserves my thanks, and the King of Sweden's [reli]gion therein mentioned demands my admiration: pray think on Mons. Jo[u]rdain in the *Citizen turned Gentleman*, that was to marry his daughter to the great Turk and be himself made a Mamamuchi; he was afraid he had not portion enough to give her, in order to procure so great an alliance. I will wait on you as soon as I have settled the affairs of this week and given some necessary orders as to the next, if you will write a word to me on Saturday night, and believe me to be ever and entirely yours."

Postscript.—"I have a great deal to say to my friend and countryman Morley about sinking a well and splashing a quickset, by which discourse I may happen to prove that I am not so ignorant of country affairs as some people may imagine. Once more, my dear Lord, adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 110.)

Matthew Prior to Lord Harley.

[1721,] June 25[-July 6]. Down.—"Master Richard did well in giving you my letter, and you did better in answering it; if you and yours are well, my Alma is satisfied. I have sunk a well, which answers to my wish, and will water my garden deliciously. I will be with you at furthest on Tuesday night, for I have much to ask and much to *spéculer* concerning the presidentship, which, I think, must unavoidably lead further. I wish to God Lord Oxford may be well enough to come to London; I have much to say to you upon that head. Bridgeman writes me word that he is to go to Wimple to-morrow morning, and will call at Down on Wednesday; but that is nothing. I shall leave my opinion of matters with his deputy Adams, and come away—as I said— so as to see you on Tuesday evening, no coach coming by to-morrow that can take me up nearer than Harlow; adieu." *Unsigned.* (I. 118.)

Charles Gildon to Matthew Prior.

1721, July 21[-August 1]. Bull Head Court, Jewin Street. —"'Tis now above a fortnight since I ordered three of my books to be left at my Lord Harley's, one directed to my Lord, another to my Lady, and a third to you. That they were delivered to one of my Lord's servants I am certain, but whether they were by him delivered according to their directions I am tempted to doubt, because in all this time I have not had the happiness to hear that they were so. From hence I take the occasion of troubling you with a request which I have to make to you. These two last terms my old acquaintance Sam Briscoe called upon me, and among other things informed me that he had in his trouble met with no act of generosity but from Mr. Prior, who had given him five guineas for a set of Tom Brown's works, and had prevailed with my Lord Harley to give him five more for another set. He further informed me that one Mr. Jacups, a new author, told him that Mr. Prior had made a collection for him to pay his debts. These generous [actio]ns to these two makes me hope that I likewise shall find the good effect of your beneficent temper, having every way, I think, as reasonable a claim to it, as the two persons I have mentioned, and by this a stronger, that I am in years, blind and lame, and of a very infirm health. I am endeavouring to get a collection made for me to enable me to remove from this out-of-the-way place to one more proper for my condition, and to provide against

the attacks of necessity by setting up a lecture which will be sufficient to supply my wants. Being sensible that to engage my Lord Harley in this collection there is nothing wanting but your mediation, that is what now I most earnestly beg at your hands, for though my Lady Duchess's present was extremely handsome, yet my anticipations upon it were so large that I had but little left of it as soon as received, and therefore I have been obliged to have recourse to the method I now mention. In which I must once more beg your earnest and speedy assistance, and the favour shall always be acknowledged." (VII. 144.)

Charles Gildon to Matthew Prior.

1721, July 27[-August 7]. Bull Head Court, Jewin Street.—"I understand that you and my Lord's family are all moving out of town next Saturday. I am the more surprised because I have not had one line from you about the present I sent you, or my subsequent letter to you, which is a treatment that I have not met with from any one but Mr. Prior; for though I have written to the greatest men in England both ecclesiastical and temporal, yet not one of them ever thought me unworthy of a civil answer, but I suppose that it is not Mr. Prior's way. As a gentleman, as I may say I am both by birth and education, and I think without much vanity, I may say a scholar, I thought I had a right to an answer from another gentleman, but it seems I was mistaken, which confirms the opinion of a very intimate friend of mine, who told me that I had so long locked myself up from the world, that I had forgot the world. And yet I hope that my mistaking Mr. Prior will not be a very strong proof of his assertion, because upon my sending one of my books to one of the greatest persons in England, he not only sent me twenty guineas, but likewise ordered his chaplain to send me a very obliging answer.

"I have much more to say to you upon this head, but shall defer till you return to town. I shall trouble you with no more at present." (VII. 146.)

Matthew Prior to the Earl of Oxford.

1721, August 31[-Sept. 11]. Wimpole.—"Since at this distance all by which I can show my respect to you is daily to wish your health and to pray for the perfect establishment of it, I imagine I have held as continual a correspondence with you as if I had writ every post to tell you so; besides that as well at London as in the country I have had the happiness of being near my Lord Harley, and the additional one of hearing from you by his letters without your being troubled with mine, which is no small advantage to both of us; in this conduct I have kept what the French call *un silence respectueux*, which some in English would translate *an excuse for laziness;* and possibly upon another

impeachment that silence might be found criminal (*vide* Parker's speech, Sacheveril's trial). But now, as Sir Philip [Yorke] used to say to brother B . . . . , one word, good Sir, to the business, that of the day, I mean, which is joy and happiness to Lord Harley and Lady Harriette, and to the Earl of Oxford on their account; and if I do not express myself very perfectly, I desire Your Lordship to make it out for me, for the sentiments I feel on this occasion are pretty like those that you yourself have, only that the title of a father has—I know not how—by general consent claimed a place nearer than that of a friend: so I will just yield the point to Your Lordship, but to no man else alive. I return Your Lordship my humblest thanks for having mentioned me to your dear and beautiful correspondent Peggy: I never saw an angel, though I have read much of them but, I fancy, she is very like one. She has no wings, indeed, but she has legs that carry her so lightly that it is a question if she flies, or no; and now I will talk of no mortal people but those here, Serjeant Commins, Squire Morley and my school-fellow Robin Harley, who all give your [*sic*] duty and respect to Your Lordship as I do mine to all where you are; the rest I reserve till I see you at London, where I hope your health will permit you to go this autumn. I shall then break out *viva voce*, and in one week discharge myself of what I have laid up for a year, though the most important thing I shall ever have to say is to assure Your Lordship of my being with inviolable zeal and esteem, &c." (I. 112.)

JOURNAL &C., MEMOIRS, &C., RELATING TO THE TREATY OF RYSWICK.

"1696, Sept. 5[-15.]—The King went to Clèves to pay the Elector of Brandebourg a visit; the Elector met him at Skinkenskense [Schenkenschanz]; from thence to Clèves, the Elector and the King went in one coach, the Electoral Prince and the Duke of Zell in another; these two last had doubtless very agreeable discourse, for one of them is seven years old and the other seventy-two.

"The King played at cards that afternoon with the Electress in her apartment, and with the Duke of Zell, who had an ordinary chair; Mr. C[ressett] sat in the like chair (as to teach the King and see his hand), and the Princess stood all the while, which was about five hours. The King supped in the same apartment with the Electress, the Electoral Prince, the Princess, the Duke of Zell; the Elector in his own apartment with some of the men.

"The King and Elector could not eat together, because the King could not let the Elector have an armed chair, and the Elector could not be treated with less in his own regence. The King's family and the strangers were all treated very

greatly at several tables, according to their quality, in the great hall; the meat was good, the wine (all but the Rhenish) bad, and so liberally filled that people were drunk before the desert; but if the guests lost their understanding, at least they had no occasion for it, for everybody found a servant and a flambeau to convoy them to the gate of the castle, and there a coach to carry them to their own lodging; the same coaches waited for them in the morning."

"Sunday, the 16th. [N.S.]—The King and Elector heard different sermons for the same reason that obliged them to eat at different tables. After sermon they went together in the same calash to see the park, and that part of it which they call the Starembourg, from which hill one sees one of the largest prospects in Europe.

"We dined in the same manner as we supped the night before; at four afternoon the Elector conducted the King back in the same manner as he went to receive him.

"The Elector allowed two ducats to each man of His Majesty's guards and two ducatoons to every man's servant there, but few took it.

"The King gave to several of the Electress's women five rings of good value from 500 to 150 pounds, and 2,500 pounds amongst the servants.

"In coming home there happened a quarrel between Lord P[ortland] and Mr. K[eppel]. P[ortland] was in one of the Duke of Zell's coaches and K[eppel] in one of the King's. K[eppel] overtook P[ortland] and kept the way quite to Deering [Dieren], where P[ortland], getting out of the coach, threatened to beat the coachman, and said he was an impertinent puppy; the fellow excused himself upon the orders he had received, upon which Portland said that he who gave those orders was an impertinent puppy, or words to that effect; the matter was complained of to the King on both sides, but we heard no more of it; it was whispered that K[eppel] was in disgrace, because he went next day to his own house at Zutphen; but he came back the next, and was as much in favour as ever."

"Wednesday, the 19th. [N.S.]—Mr. Blathwayt told me that he had represented to the King what the Duke of Sh[rewsbury] had written in my behalf, that I might be thought of as Secretary to the Embassy when the peace should be made; the King was pleased to answer that he was of my Lord P[ortland]'s opinion as to my being proper for that employment, and that my pretensions were just and reasonable, which I hearing from Mr. Blathwayt desired Mr. C[ressett] to thank the King for this honour he intended me, and came from Loo (Thursday, the 20th)."

"Saturday the 22nd. [N.S.]—I came to The Hague and heard that my Lord V[illiers] was gone to Loo." (XVI. 1-2.)

"Dec. 12[-22].—His Majesty named the Right Honourable the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord Viscount Villiers, and Sir

Joseph Williamson his Plenipotentiaries for the Treaty of a General Peace.''

''1697, Feb. 4. [N.S.]—The mediation was required of Mons. Lilieroet [the Swedish Envoy] by Count Kaunitz in the name of the Congress.''

''[Feb.] 10. [N.S.]—Cailieres [Callières] dictated to the Mediator the preliminaries in presence of Mr. Dyckvelt.''

''[Feb.] 14. [N.S.]—The form of passports was agreed on, and the contredéclaration adjusted which Count Kaunitz dictated to the Mediator [Feb.] 16.''

''At the same time Lilienroett made his declaration concerning Luxembourg and Strasbourg for Cailieres' justification.''

''[Feb.] 25. [N.S.]—The form of the *pleinpouvoirs* communicated to the Ministers by the Mediator.''

''March 5. [N.S.]—My Lord Villiers gave an account of a discourse between him and the Mediator to this effect:—

''L[ord] V[illiers].—'It was thought there might be some difficulty in the business of the passports, in regard of His Majesty's titles, and accordingly I spoke to the Mediator to take care that they might receive no prejudice in that or any other Act in the Treaty. I told him that the French would never be suffered to make any distinction between His Majesty and the rest of the Allies, and that His Majesty would treat France in every point as France treated His Majesty. Upon this the Mediator has spoken to Mons. Cailleres, who has consented to give the Ministers of His Majesty blank passes, as to the Ministers of the rest of the Allies; he likewise said, he thought it reasonable that every packet-boat should have a pass for the vessel, her equipage, and for the letters she carries, merchandises and passengers excepted, but to this he could not consent without an order from his Court, which he would write for; by this agreement the packet (as a courier) may be stopped to see if she has no passengers and merchandises on board, but is not to be detained above an hour at most, nor led out of her way.

'The Mediator in discourse with Mons. Cailleres mentioned a pass for my Lord Pembroke and Sir Joseph Williamson, but that was not found practicable according to the article in the Preliminaries about owning His Majesty, so that a good convoy is thought the best expedient in this affair.

'The Mediator has spoken to Mons. Cailleres of the business of Lorraine, but as yet cannot get it upon better terms than France has already offered it. In speaking of this business the Mediator assured Mons. Cailleres that the Allies would never hearken to an equivalent for Strasbourg.

'The French except against the Emperor's bearing the title of Landgrave of Alsatia in his *pleinpouvoirs*, and say that His Imperial Majesty has never used it in any Act since the Peace of Westphalia; this will be easily known and easily adjusted by a declaration from the Mediator that the taking

a title by any Prince shall not prejudice the pretension that another can have to it.' "

[Memorandum.]—" I went for England, Jan. 23rd. N.S., and returned March 17. I took leave of the King on Sunday, March 10, at Kensington, from which day my new privy seal as Secretary of the Embassy commences."

" 1697, April 3rd. N.S.—Count Kaunitz informed the Ministers at the Congress at the desire of Mons. Lilienroett, that the French had agreed to the points following :—

' 1. That all ceremonies should be abolished.

' 2. To the act of the Mediator: that the taking of a title by one Prince should no way prejudice the claim of any other Prince to it.

' 3. To the passports : that every Minister should have free and secure correspondence with his Master, in order to which blank passports are to be given to each party, the packet-boat to and from England is to be looked upon as a courier ; but the merchandises and passengers, which are on board, are not free ; if any party desires a passport to go to any other place than the residence of his own Master, it is left to the liberty of the other party to grant or refuse it.

' 4. To the *pleinpouvoirs*, which are to be upon the same foot as that of Nimègue.

" The Pensioner [Heinsius] told the Allies that *ad interim* and provisionally they might meet the Mediator in the Congress-room, the table removed." (XVI. 3-5.)

"Journal of what was done at the first meeting at Ryswick."

" 1697, Thursday, May 9th. [N.S.]—The Ministers being assembled at 4 [o'clock] afternoon, the Mediator showed his own *pleinpouvoirs* and each Minister did the like ; the Mediator went for some time to the other side, and returning showed the Ministers of the Allies the *pleinpouvoirs* of the French Ministers ; which being read, it appeared that they had power to treat with the Emperor, King of Spain, and States General, and with all that are in alliance with them ; the Mediator went to his own apartment ; the *pleinpouvoirs* of the several Ministers were brought to him by the Secretaries, and two copies collationed, one of them signed and sealed by the respective Ministers (whose they were), were left in the Mediator's hand. The Mediator, returning to the Ministers of the Allies, informed them that the French desired (for the present) only to see the *pleinpouvoirs* of the Emperor, King of Spain and the States.

" The Mediator gave the Spanish Ministers the French Ministers' answer to the reunions made in the Catholic provinces since the Treaty of Nimègue.

" The Mediator read an Act which was to save any Princes being prejudiced by another's assuming any title.

"The Congress adjourned till Saturday, the 11th, at 10 o'clock in the morning."

"Saturday, May 11th. [N.S.] In the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator gave the Imperialists, Spaniards and Dutch Ministers the copy of the French *pleinpouvoirs*.

"It was resolved that the Congress should for the future meet at Ryswick on Wednesday morning and Saturday afternoon.

"The Brandebourg Minister did from the beginning make some exceptions against his Master's not being particularly named in the French *pleinpouvoirs*, but only generally mentioned under the name of ally."

"May 14th [N.S.]—The Mediator paid my Lord Pembroke the first visit, in His Lordship's apartment in my Lord Villiers' house." (XVI. 7-8.)

"Wednesday, May the 15th. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator showed his new *pleinpouvoirs* signed in the name of the young King by the Queen his grandmother, and the rest of the Regents, and gave to each of the Allies an authentic copy signed Lilieroot and sealed with his arms.

"The Mediator gave in these three propositions :—

'Propositions de L'Ambassadeur Médiateur.

'1. De convenir d'un Règlement de Police; et il propose celui de Nimègue avec quelques additions, dont la copie est icy joint.

'2. De concerter du tems et de la manière de faire connoissance, et d'entrer en commerce avec Messrs. les Ambassadeurs de France sans que personne en puisse être préjudicié.

'3. De préparer les Propositions de Paix pour la première Conférence, s'il est possible.

"[As] to the first: the Mediator gave in the regulations made at Nimègue with some explications upon them.

"[As] to the second: the Emperor's Ministers and the French could not agree about the manner of their first meeting; the Imperialists proposed the great hall for the place, and that the French should be there some little time before the Imperialists entered. The French would not consent to enter any otherwise than each party from his respective apartment, and at the same time. Mr. Zeiler [*sic. i.e.*, Seilern] proposed an expedient, which was that the French should be in the Mediator's apartment, and upon notice given by the Mediator of their being there, the Imperialists should enter; the French would not accept of this expedient, and so the intended interview was laid aside.

"As to the third: the Allies said they would prepare their *Postulata* as soon as possible."

"Saturday, May the 18th. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Emperor's Ministers showed the project of what they demanded in the name of the Emperor and Empire.

The Ministers of the several German Princes asked a copy of it, and that they might have time till the next Congress-day to consider of the several points contained in it, in order to their assenting to them."

"Wednesday, May the 22nd. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Imperial Ministers had a conference with those of the other Princes of Germany some time before the Congress began, and instead of receiving their answers to the project given to them on Saturday, they produced a more ample form of their demands, and required the Ministers to give their opinion of it immediately. The Ministers excused themselves from doing it, there being some points in the project which required their further consideration, especially in points relating to religion; but there being one Article by which it was specified that every Prince might give in his demand particularly, the Imperialists thought they might give it into the Mediator's hand; which accordingly they did, but desired him not to give it to the French without receiving their demands at the same time.

"The Spaniards gave in their demands in general terms with the same condition. The Ministers of Cologne and Liége gave in their demands (of which they gave us a copy).

"Mons. Lilieroet went to the French, and coming back told the Imperialists that he had required that the French should give in their demands at the same time that they received those of the Imperialists, and that as to this point the French said that they stick to the declaration which Mons. Cailiere made in the Preliminaries.

"The Imperialists desired some time to consider of this answer before the Mediator should give in their Project." (XVI. 8-11.)

"Saturday, May 25th. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator acquainted the Congress that the French grew impatient that the Allies did not give in their pretensions; that he promised that they should soon do it; he therefore desired the Allies to make all convenient haste in the dispatch of their *Postulata*.

"The Mediator desired to know if the Allies were agreed to his regulations; they desired that they might have a copy of them and time to consider of it."

"Wednesday the 29th May. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator informed the Allies that he had given all the *Postulata* which he had already received from these Ministers into the hands of those of France, and that they had told him they would consider of those *Postulata*, and give their answer in some time. It was said that the Imperialists had made some alterations in those *Postulata* which they had given in before, particularly that in the 3rd Article *post*

Pacem Monasteriensem was changed to *post Pacem Westphalicam.*

"The Mediator told us that he had spoken to the French Ministers concerning our passports, and acquainted them that he had received notice from France by the Swedish Minister there, that Mons. Pomponne had said that the King his Master approved of the method which Mons. Lilieroot had proposed for the passports for the packet, and that it was by some mistake that they were not dispatched before now. The French said that the account they had from Mons. Pontchartrain was very contrary to this, but that they hoped by Friday's post they might have instructions in the thing.

"Everybody in effect agreed to the ceremonial, and so it was looked upon as an Act made by the Mediator which already only wanted its formal part. Some time was spent between the Mediator and the French, to try if means might be found for the Imperialists and the French to visit; but the Mediator not being able as yet to make them agree in the point, they will not yet see each other."

"Saturday the 1st of June. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator gave the Allies a paper from the French, which contained a previous question of which they desired to be informed before they answered to the *Postulata* of the Imperialists and Spaniards. Count Kaunitz and Don Quiros told the Mediator that the Allies would consider of that paper.

"Monday following being appointed for the general fast, it was agreed on by all parties that the Congress should meet on Tuesday at 5 [o'clock] afternoon."

"Tuesday the 4th June. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Imperialists and Spaniards read to the Allies the answer which each of them had formed to the paper they had received from the French on Saturday. It was not at first approved of, as not entirely owning their consent to the Preliminaries, but after some small alterations made in it, it was agreed on.

"Count Kaunitz, Don Quiros and Mons. Dyckvelt carried it to the Mediator, to be by him handed to the French. The Mediator brought word back that he had delivered the answer, and that the French desired time till Saturday to reply to it; the Mediator added that the French in discourse with him had said they thought that as well the Allies on one side as themselves on the other were obliged to keep in the main to the Preliminaries.

"The Mediator delivered to the Allies the copies he had signed and sealed of the Act for the regulation of the ceremonial."

"Saturday the 8th June. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator received from the French and gave to the Allies the answer which the French made to the paper they had received from the Imperialists the Tuesday before; of which the Secretaries, who were called in for that purpose, took copies."

"Tuesday the 11th.—The English Embassy had a conference with the Pensioner [Heinsius] at his own house; Sir Joseph Williamson assisted, this being the first time he had acted.

"We had news that Ath was taken the 5th." (XVI. 11-15.)

"Wednesday, June the 12th. [N.S.] At the Congress at Ryswick.—

"The Mediator informed the Allies that he had been yesterday with the French Ambassadors, and had proposed to them the breaking off this way of treaty by writing, and proposed that of his own acting *viva voce* as the most proper for gaining time; that the French desired time to consider of this proposal till this morning; and that he had received their answer in this House this morning; which was, that they consented to it; he added that they did it with great difficulty, and gave him to understand at the same time, that they thought that both parties were equally obliged not to exceed the Preliminaries.

"As to the Spanish demands the French said that their proposals was [*sic*] plainly the Peace of the Pyrenees; upon that the Mediator replied that it was not to be wondered at, for that the Allies had promised the Spaniards the performance of that Treaty, but the French still insisted that they would keep to that of Nimègue, as they had said in the Preliminaries. The French said that the German *Postulata* went beyond what they could think of agreeing to; that there were expressions in them disrespectful; they instanced in *Reservatio Gallica* which, said they, was little better than *Fides Punica*.

"The Mediator next acquainted the Allies, that he had proposed to the French the going upon the heads *articulatim*, and that they had told him in particular that they had consented to it. He therefore required the Allies' consent, which was given; and the Mediator went back and brought word that the French gave likewise their formal consent to this method.

"The Mediator took the opportunity of the Allies being there assembled together to notify to them the death of the King his Master; he said he took that way to avoid any dispute that might arise from his notifying it to one party sooner than to another, and that though the matter was for him [*sic. i.e.*, foreign] to anything which was contained in the Regulation, the form of this notification was consonant to that Act, and that was the reason of his following it. Sir Joseph Williamson assisted for the first time at the Congress.

"We received the same day the passport for our packets; and having considered of it, and found it not exactly according

to what the French had promised to the Mediator, we returned it the next day, 13th, to Mr. Dyckvelt, who gave it back again to the French Ambassador, who agreed that it was deficient and promised to write again concerning it into France." (XVI. 16-18.)

"The 15th [N.S.] June. At Ryswick.—

"The Imperialists and Spaniards gave the first Article of their *Postulata* to the Mediator, who handed it to the French; they excepted at present against the word *Christianissimus* being written in short *Xmus* in the Imperialists' Article, who said that this contained only the sense of what they would say, and was not in form as they intended it should be when they came to sign. In the meantime they caused it to be altered, and gave it back again. The Imperialists in some private conferences they had with the Mediator negotiated an interview between them and the French to be had at Ryswick in the Mediator's chambers at other times than those of the public meeting. The Spaniards endeavoured the like interview; the French consented to see the Imperialists as they proposed in the Mediator's apartment, in the manner as they did at Nimègue, as often and at what time the Imperialists pleased, provided that, upon notification from the French of their arrival, Count Kaunitz and Count Stratmann, the two first of the Imperial Embassy, would give them the first visit, as to those who came last; and on their part they offered in the same manner to make the first visit to Mons. Zeiler [*sic. i.e.*, Seilern], the 3rd of the Imperial Embassy, he arriving since them; the Imperialists took this *ad referendum.*

"As to the seeing the Spaniards, the French made a difficulty of their coming into the Mediator's apartment from the same side as the Imperialists, it being the right hand of the House and consequently the best apartment, and only yielded to the Allies upon the account of the Imperialists being there."

"The 17th [N.S.] June, 5 [o'clock] afternoon.—The Imperial Embassy had a conference with us at my Lord Pembrook's house; they told us that they did not think it proper to make any further advance towards this interview without first advising with us, it being a respect which they owed to His Majesty. We said that this previous notification to the two parties seeing each other was destroying the Regulation which had already been agreed to, and that a notification made now would be more remarkable as to us, since we could not have the like from the Allies, having already received their visits. Mons. Zeiler asked us if we had any reason to object against the Imperialists seeing the French, provided it was done without notification or ceremony; we replied that we could say nothing to that, since it was a freedom allowed in the Regulation to the private discretion of each party, and that we would wait upon their Excellencies to-morrow with a more positive answer; accordingly they named 5 [o'clock] afternoon."

"18th [N.S.] June, 4 [o'clock] afternoon.—We met at my Lord Pembrook's. Mr. Prior read to us the Project together with the Great Article [expressly abrogating the alliance between Louis XIV. and James II.] in a separate paper; some small alterations were made in the wording the Project, and we went with it to the Pensioner, and left it in his hand; we likewise told him, our resolution was to give the Imperialists for answer what we had represented to them the day before, that the first Article of the Regulation was to be stuck to, and for the rest it was left to their liberty."

"June the 19th. [N.S.] At Ryswick.—

"Count Kaunitz acquainted the English Embassy, that he had told the Mediator in the name of the Imperial Embassy that they could not admit of any expedient in order to their seeing the French which might contradict the first Article of the Regulation, to which they had agreed.

"The Imperial Embassy retired into the Mediator's apartment, and received from His Excellency there an Article which the French had drawn up, and which they would consent to instead of that first Article which they had received from the Imperialists, from which this differed. The Imperialists took it, but did not read it at the Congress, which was in a manner taking it, as their phrase expresses it, *ad referendum*.

"The first article of the Spanish *Postulata* was agreed to by the French; it was *verbatim* the same as the first of the Treaty of Nimègue.

"My Lord Villiers in a private conference with Mons. Boreel urged all imaginable arguments for their and our not receding in the least from the Great Article."

"The 21st [N.S.] of June.—This morning Mons. Dyckvelt had a conference with the English Embassy; being in the afternoon to see the French, he had a copy of the Project of Peace and the Great Article given to him. He the next day returned the French's answer to the substance of the Great Article which he had mentioned *viva voce* to them; which was that the King their Master could no way consent to have a Prince named in that manner with whom he had been in so long and so strict an alliance; that, for the rest, they were ready to consent to the doing the thing in as ample and formal terms as could be thought of." (XVI. 15-23.)

"June the 25th. [N.S.]—We had a conference with the Pensioner, Mons. Dyckvelt and Mons. Haren concerning what the Dutch Ministers were to say in the business of England to the French; it was agreed that they should tell them that our Project was made and sent to His Majesty for his approbation, and that as soon as it came back they should receive it."

"June the 26th. [N.S.] At Ryswick.—

"Mons. Dyckvelt told us at our coming that Mons. Boreel had been prevented by a fever from seeing the French the day before, and consequently that what he had charged him

with concerning our affair was not yet done. The Mediator told the Imperialists, as from the French, that the objection the Imperialists had made to the first Article should be no hindrance to the Treaty, but that those objections were improper as yet, for that as well the French's explaining themselves as to their having or not having allies, as likewise that of who might be contained in the amnesty was to be specified at the end of the Treaty; that they had no ally now, but might have before the signing the peace, and that they might likewise ask an amnesty then for some persons, though there was no occasion for their asking it now; the other alterations in this Article the French consented to. The Mediator told the Spaniard that the French had said they had as yet no answer concerning the Spanish reunions.

"The Mediator told us in his own apartment that he thought himself obliged to inform us of what had passed between the Imperialists and the French, that he would not omit telling us anything wherein we might possibly be concerned, as, may be, we might think ourselves, in [the] explanation which the Imperialists had asked from the French of the word *confoederatos* and of the answer the French had given them: we said we were not apprehensive of any danger herein, but we desired him to insert into his protocol that they had said they had no ally.

"The Mediator acquainted all the Allies that the French had complained of the slowness of the Treaty, this being the 15th meeting, and yet things so little advanced: the Mediator said he was of the same opinion, and desired the Allies to think of some quicker method of negotiating; they answered that they expected that these methods should be proposed by the French, since it was only they that were the reason of our being in this way of treaty as we are.

"In the afternoon at my Lord Pembrook's house Mons. Bosen and Mons. Smetteau[Schmettau]* came to us to desire our good offices to the Imperialists that they might insert in their demands the settlement of the Protestant religion in Germany according to the Treaty of Westphalia; they gave us a copy of the memorial which they had given to the Mediator on that subject." (XVI. 30-32.)

"Saturday the 29th [N.S.] June.—We had a conference with the Pensioner, Mons. Dyckvelt and Mons. Haren, Mons. Boreel being sick; we told them we had received a Project from His Majesty with his order to give it in without the Secret Article.† We therefore desired the Dutch to press *viva voce*, and to the utmost of their power, the naming King James, and absolutely to reject the proposition which the French might make in favour of the rebels."

"The same day. At Ryswick.—

*The Saxon and Prussian Plenipotentiaries.

† *I.e.*, the substance of the Great Article without express mention of King James.

"The Imperialists proposed to us that, since the French had not answered the demands they made in their *Postulata*, and looked upon the second method they had proposed of treating by article as tedious, of which opinion themselves were likewise, that therefore it should be proposed to the French to give an entire project of what they would agree to. The Imperialists therefore desired the Congress to depute some Minister to the Mediator to acquaint him with their design; the Spaniards opposed this way of proceeding as what might deroge from what was already settled, as if it left a power too unlimited to the French of proposing what they pleased; the rest of the Allies consented to the thing, but proposed that the Mediator might be sent for. Whilst this was arguing, the Imperialists went from the Congress of their own accord to propose the thing to the Mediator. The Allies were surprised at this their proceeding, but desired Count Caunitz at his return to dictate to the Congress what he had said to the Mediator; which he did as followeth:—

"'Qu'il avoit proposé au Médiateur de proposer aux François de donner un projet qui contient toute la paix: tous les articles étendus, et point en termes généraux'; he added likewise to the Mediator:—'Qu'il avoit communiqué cette proposition à tous les Alliés qui en étoient tous d'accord, excepté les Espagnols, qui parleroient pour eux mêmes; que, comme le Médiateur avoit répondu là-dessus que la France pourra parler seulement de la Paix de Nimègue, il avoit répondu, que par là ils se départeroient des Préliminaires qui renferment les deux Paix, que ce seroit plutôt pour rompre les deux Paix, que pour l'avancer.'"

"Sunday, June 30th. [N.S.]—At my Lord Pembroke's it was agreed that these words should be added to the 7th article (in the middle):—'Except only such places as were taken by the French from the English during the peace which preceded this war'." (XVI. 34–36.)

"Sunday the 30th [N.S.] June, and Monday the 1st [N.S.] July.—Count Kaunitz and Count Straatman went separately to Delft in two coaches and six horses each, and visited the three French Ambassadors each at his own house. The three French Ambassadors returned these visits on Monday likewise separately, and after that paid a visit to Mons. Seiler[n], the 3rd of the Imperial Embassy, as being arrived here after the French. The Project of Peace was given in by Mr. Prior to Mons. Dyckvelt in Latin, the Article of Orange inserted in it."

"Tuesday the 2nd [N.S.] July.—The Spanish Ambassador went separately to Delft to visit the French, and Mons. Seiler[n] returned the visit they had given him the day before."

"Wednesday the 3rd [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—The Mediator acquainted us that as to what he had proposed to the French on Saturday from the Imperialists, the French had

answered that they were very willing to give in a Project as the Imperialists desired, but that being at present in treaty with the *Quatre Puissances*, the Emperor and the Empire, the Kings and the States, they could not give in such a Project till they were assured all these parties had agreed about it, but that the Spaniards had not as yet consented to it; they added that the Treaty of Nimègue would be the object of the Treaty they designed to form, but insinuated withal that something more might be obtained if the Allies showed by their manner of negotiating that they were sincerely intent upon a peace. In answer to this the Allies told the Mediator that they would take the thing into consideration; then the Mediator went into his own apartment, and the Spaniards, having been with him, returned and acquainted the Congress that they had told him that they would consider of the whole business of the Project, that they would not consent to anything that might deroge from the Preliminaries in the Project when it should be made." (XVI. 34–39.)

"Saturday the 6th [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—Nothing was done, the French alleging that they could not give in their Project till the Spaniards were agreed with the rest of the Allies."

"July the 8th [N.S.].—Mons. Bosen, Ambassador from Saxe, notified to the several Ministers of the Allies that the Elector, his Master, was chosen King of Poland; the English Embassy visited him severally the next day to congratulate this new honour to the Elector."

"Wednesday the 10th [N.S.] of July. At Ryswick.—The Mediator told us that, considering the French might have had an answer from their Court concerning the Project, he had asked them if they had anything to say to the Allies, and that they still excused themselves upon the Spaniards not having given their consent; that he had desired them, therefore, to act as if the Spaniards had consented, and that effectual means should be used to the obtaining it, provided that their first *Postulata* should not be prejudiced, and that the Preliminaries should be assured; the French said that they had already made their reflections upon the first, and that as to the latter it was already agreed on, and they looked on it as *une chose dite et faite;* the conclusion was that the French promised to give in their Project on Saturday.

"The Mediator acquainted the Congress that Baron Stein, joined in commission with Mons. Schrottenberg from the Circle of Franconia, had notified to him his desire of being received into the Congress, which was accordingly consented to." (XVI. 41–42.)

"Saturday the 13th [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—The French told the Mediator that they intended to give in their Project with all the speed they could; they did not think it could be done by Wednesday, but they would at least endeavour it."

"Tuesday the 16th [N.S. July].—Mons. Plessen notified to the Ambassadors here that the Princess was brought to bed the 28th past at Copenhagen of a son, who was baptized the same day by the name of Christian."

"Wednesday the 17th [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—The French promised absolutely to give in their Project on Saturday entire, if possible, at least to the greatest part of the Allies; the Dutch gave in their pretensions to the French."

"Thursday the 18th [N.S. July].—Mr. Prior gave in a copy of the Project of Peace to the Mediator, adding that as to the private article the Dutch Embassy were in negotiation with the French, and that as to what related to the French *réfugiés* the English Embassy would act conjointly with the Ministers of the other Protestant Princes, which was the reason that nothing relating to these two articles was found in the Project; as for the rest it was entire, and in the language that it was given in to the French. The Mediator said he was very much obliged to their Excellencies for this communication, which he should make the best use he could on for His Majesty's interest and their service, that he was satisfied with the reason of its not going through his hand, but that he had already by express order from his Master insisted upon His Majesty's title and interest in all conferences he had had with the French, and that he should always continue to do so, which he enjoined Mr. Prior very expressly to signify to their Excellencies." (XVI. 47–48.)

"Friday the 19th [N.S. July].—According to the substance of a letter which Mr. Prior received from Mr. Blathwayt, dated the 17th, the Lords Ambassadors had a conference with the Pensioner at his own house at four, afternoon, after which they likewise conferred with the Imperial Embassy at six; the substance of this conference was that according to the desire of the Imperial Embassy the Lords Ambassadors had written to His Majesty to know the substance of what had passed between the Earl of Portland and the Marshal de Boufflers in Flanders, and that His Majesty returned for answer, that he ordered the Earl of Portland in His Majesty's name to declare that, since France had taken pains to make the world think that His Majesty was not really designed to make the peace, he should think himself obliged to justify himself in that point to all the world, and that he desired nothing more than a peace, provided it might be just, honourable and such a one as might last, and that he took this occasion to know the reality of the King of France's designs on the same subject; that the rest of the discourse was occasional, and several things were mentioned in it that related particularly to His Majesty; in answer to what my Lord Portland had said the Marshal de Boufflers in a second conference said that he had order from the King his Master to declare that that Prince was glad to find that His Majesty was so well inclined towards the peace, that he was very sincere in his intentions, and had given

such orders to his Ambassadors at Delft on this subject as would evidence what he (the Marshal de Boufflers) then said."

"Saturday the 20th [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—The French gave in their project to the Mediator, and said that if an explanation of any article might be required or the sense of it to be treated on, they were ready to contribute to it; and that, if any objection might be raised to any particular phrase or expression in it, they were willing to alter it; they added that it might be declared that they came with a design of making the peace, and that they hoped the Allies on their side would contribute all they could to the same end."

"Wednesday the 24th [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—The Mediator said to the English Embassy that, though they were not immediately concerned in the Project, he thought himself obliged to communicate to them what was done; he added that he desired their opinion upon it; he said that the French had pressed him the last conference-day to fix the last of August as the utmost time that their Master should think himself obliged to stand to as to the performance of the articles of the Project, that he (the Mediator) was afraid he should scarce have credit enough with them to make them any longer defer the sitting this time, though the Imperialists very earnestly desired it. The English Embassy said that they thought it was not time now for France to pretend to act thus with the Allies, and desired him to continue to use his interest that they should still defer this peremptory way of proceeding.

"N.B.—The French had fixed the time in the beginning of the Project, which they first gave to the Mediator, which they altered upon his desiring it.

"The Imperialists having acquainted the Mediator with the method in which they resolved to answer the French, which was to receive or to make their exception against every article as it lay, the Mediator likewise informed the English Embassy that he had communicated this resolution of the Imperialists to the French." (XVI. 50–53.)

"Saturday the 27th [N.S. July]. At Ryswick.—The Mediator told the Allies that he had imparted to the French the method that the Imperialists were resolved to take in the answer they intended to make to the French Project, and that thereupon the French desired them to make all possible haste, and reiterated their intent of making a sure and a speedy peace. The Mediator gave the Allies Baron Schonbourn's [*sic. i.e.*, Schönborn's] powers; Count Kaunitz received them in the name of the Congress, and gave them to Mons. Norff, who read them."

"Monday the 29th [N.S.] July.—The French having desired Mons. Dyckvelt to get an explanation of the 4th and 6th articles of our Project, Mr. Prior drew it up upon what the Embassy thought proper the day before at a conference at my Lord Pembrook's, and gave it to my Lord Pembrook,

and his Excellency gave it to Mons. Dyckvelt; it was as followeth :—

'4 Art.'

'Il est convenu qu'une satisfaction et réparation entière sera faite de part et d'autre pour les dommages et injures que les sujets des susnommés Seigrs. Rois se sont donnés ou causés les uns aux autres avant la déclaration de la présente guerre. (*Cf.* pp. 545 *et seq.*, *infra*.)

'Eclaircissement.'

'1683. Le 14me d'Aoust les François habitants de Canada envahirent le territoire de la Compagnie de la Baye de Hudson dans l'Amérique Septentrionale au Port de Nelson par ordre de Mons. de la Barre, Gouverneur de Canada, brûlèrent leurs maisons, se saisirent de leurs biens et emmenèrent avec eux prisonniers le Gouverneur de la Compagnie et autres.

'1684. Les François firent encore un tentative sur le Port de Nelson avec deux navires sous le commandement de Mons. d'Olmond, et firent des dommages considérables.

'1685. Les François à leur retour vers Canada se saisirent d'un navire appartenant à la dite Compagnie, lequel ils mené [*sic*] avec eux en Canada.

'1686. Les François sous le commandement de Mons. de Troyes prirent et démolirent trois de leurs factoreries, à sçavoir, les forts d'Albanie, de Rupert, et celuy dans la Rivière de Moose; prirent trois navires appartenants à la Compagnie, comme aussi quelques milliés [*sic*] de pelteries.

'1687. Mons. d'Iberville prit dans l'Isle de Stretton dans la Baye de Hudson la chalouppe nommé la *Hayes* avec toute sa cargaison.

'1688. Les François se saisirent de trois navires, le *Churchill*, le *Young* et le *Husband*, et firent prisonniers divers Anglois de la dite Compagnie.

'Les sujets du Roy l'Angleterre furent aussi incommodés

dans leur commerce par les François dans la Rivière de Gambia et autres adjacentes dans l'Afrique dans les années 1687 et 1688.

'1689. Les François de Canada surprirent la ville de Schenecstedy à 5 lieues d'Albanie, en firent prisonniers les habitants, brûlèrent la ville après l'avoir saccagée.

'6 Art.'

'Tous les François habitants et demeurants dans les Royaumes ou Domaines de Sa Majesté le Roy de la Grande Bretagne, et tous autres sujets de Sa dite Majesté qui ont des terres, ou autres biens en fond dans les Royaumes et Domaines de Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, auront et percevront sans aucun trouble ou empêchement les fruits et revenues des dites terres et autres biens ; et tous ceux d'entre eux qui sont ou qui ont été emprisonnés ou retenus de quelque manière que ce soit, pendant cette guerre, auront liberté entière de revenir dans les Royaumes de Sa Majesté Britannique.' "

'Sous le nom de François sont compris les Protestants Réfugiés dans le Royaume de Sa Majesté Britannique ; sous le nom des autres sujets de Sa Majesté nous comprenons tous ceux d'entre eux qui avoient des biens en France.

'Sous le nom d'emprisonnés ou retenus, nous comprenons les François sujets de Sa Majesté qui ont été pris par mer ou par terre, et nommément quelques uns qui, gagnant leurs vies par la pêche sur les côtes d'Angleterre y ont été enlevés, et sont détenus présentement ou aux Galères, ou emprisonnés ailleurs.' " (XVI. 53–57.)

" Tuesday the 30th [N.S. July].—The Imperial Embassy desired a conference with the English, which they had this afternoon at my Lord Pembroke['s] ; the subject of it was to desire an account of what passed at the conference which the Earl of Portland had last Friday with the Marshal de Boufflers ; my Lords Ambassadors told them that it was concerning His Majesty's particular affairs, as to which France was in a fair way of giving him satisfaction ; that His Majesty therefore desired the Allies to dispatch as much as possible their resolution towards concluding the negotiation one way or other."

" Wednesday, the 31st [N.S. July]. At Ryswick. The Mediator told the Allies that he had entertained the French upon the Project, and the remarks that the Allies designed to make upon it ; that the French desired that they would make haste in giving these remarks in, which they were ready to receive, and they said they did not [wish] to prescribe them any time for it, but that they wished it might be done by the Saturday. Mons. Smeteau [Schmettau], Ambassador from

Brandenbourg, represented that the French having no *plein-pouvoirs* to treat with their Master, they could not go on in the negotiation ; they therefore entreated the Allies to repeat their good offices to the Mediator to the end that he might persuade the French to procure the *pleinpouvoirs* desired."

"Thursday the 1st [N.S.] of August.—The English Embassy were at the Pensioner's with that Minister, the Dutch Ambassadors Dyckvelt and Haren, to consult of what means would be properest to advance the negotiation ; it was agreed that it should be represented to the Imperial Embassy how absolute a necessity there was of dispatching this business, and to desire them to get their remarks ready for Saturday, as likewise to omit inserting anything in them that there was not a probability of obtaining. My Lord Pembroke and Mons. Dyckvelt were desired to visit the Imperialists on this subject, which accordingly they did the next day."

"Friday the 2nd [N.S. August].—The Imperialists assured them that they would do their endeavour that their remarks should accordingly be ready."

"Saturday the 3rd [N.S. August]. At Ryswick.—The Imperialists told the Mediator that the Ministers of the other Princes of the Empire had given in their remarks upon the French Project only the day before, which was the reason that they could not be ready with theirs, but that they would prepare it with all possible speed.

"The same day the Earl of Albemarle and my Lord Villiers went to Breda to meet the King there at night ; the latter being sent for by His Majesty to give him an account of the state of the negotiation here."

"Sunday the 4th [N.S. August].—The Earl of Portland came hither from Breda ; the design of his journey was to tell the Allies, and more particularly the Imperialists and Spaniards, what had been the result of those conferences which His Lordship had lately in Flanders with the Marshal de Boufflers ; he likewise told them that His Majesty was of opinion that it was for the interest of the Low Countries that an equivalent should be taken for Luxembourg." (XVI. 57–60.)

"Monday the 5th [N.S. August].—My Lord Villiers returned to The Hague."

"Wednesday the 7th [N.S. August]. At Ryswick.—The Mediator told us that the day before he had communicated to the French the Imperialists' remarks upon that Project, and had been with them that morning to receive their answer to it, that they had said that it was too long for them to make their reflexions upon so soon, but that they would do it by the next Congress day, though in looking over it they said they had found many particulars to object against, which they would digest and give in on Saturday.

"The Mediator offered a *pleinpouvoir* from the Bishop of Hildesheim, but he not being in the Grand Alliance, this Minister was not admitted. The Allies spoke again to the

Mediator to use his interest with the French Embassy to procure a particular *pleinpouvoir*, whereby they might treat with the Elector of Brandenbourg."

"Thursday the 8th [N.S. August].—" The Imperial Ministers had an audience of us at the Earl of Pembrook's this morning to acquaint us with what the Earl of Portland had by His Majesty's command told them of what passed with Boufflers :—

'That the King was of a mind to accept of an equivalent for Luxembourg; that he would *appuyer* it towards the King of Spain.

'That this change of mind had astonished them, they could not but represent with desire to have it transmitted by us to the King, etc;

'That the four Electors of the Rhine were undone if Luxembourg rested in the French hands; that the Elector of Brandenbourg desired them everywhere to name his Master, as one that would be concerned in it;

'That their votes could never be free in the Diets, in the election of an Emperor;

'That the right of protection of the archiepiscopal church of Trèves belongs to the Duchy of Luxembourg, and when it comes to be vacant, as this is an old man, the Church will be in awe of who ever has Luxembourg;

'That Luxembourg is of the patrimony of the House of Austria (the Emperor bears the title); is of the body of the Empire (four or five Emperors were of that House); that it has a treaty of indiginity [*sic*] with the King of Bohemia, which shows it is of the Empire.

'That this Duchy, as also that of Brabant, together with the Marquisate of Saint Empire and several of the Spanish provinces, are in the feudality of the Empire, as the Pays d'Alost in Flanders, and La Flandrie Impériale, are of the feudality of the Empire.

'That therefore the King of Spain is not solely the lord of it whose will and consent is to govern this matter; that it cannot be alienated without the consent of the Emperor and Empire, and the Emperor is resolved never to make a peace without its restitution.

'To all this, that the King had said to Count Caunitz, that if the Emperor stood as stiffly upon Strasbourg as he would do on Luxembourg, he doubted not but they should have both.

'That the Pensioner had heretofore said that, if France would restore all taken in the Spanish Netherlands, together with the County d'Artois, nay, and part of Picardy, it could not be an equivalent for Luxembourg." (XVI. 60–63.)

"Saturday the 10th [N.S.] August.—Mons. Bosen and Baron Steinberg were with the English Embassy in the name of the Electors and Princes of the Empire upon the same subject as the Imperialists were on Thursday; they gave

my Lord Pembroke the copy of a paper which they had given to the Spanish Embassy, and which they desired might be transmitted to the King when the English Embassy wrote to His Majesty."

"Saturday the 10th [N.S. August]. At Ryswick.—The Mediator told the Allies that the French said they were ready to enter into the way of treating by conference, or into any other which should be judged most necessary to bring the business of the peace to a conclusion, and they desired that the Allies will contribute to the like dispatch.

"The Pensioner's plenipotentiary's powers were read and he, though not present, was esteemed to be for the future a Minister of the Congress."

"Monday the 12th [N.S. August].—Mr. Prior gave the Imperial Embassy a copy of the English Project of Peace, giving them at the same time to understand their reason why the Separate Article was not therein inserted. Count Kaunitz returned the compliment of the Imperial Embassy, and said they were mightily obliged to their Excellencies the English Ambassadors for this communication."

"Tuesday the 13th [N.S. August].—My Lord Villiers gave Mr. Prior the remarks which the French had made upon our treaty as they were written in the Pensioner's own hand; these remarks are copied and joined to the Project; and the original was sent back to the Pensioner."

"Wednesday the 14th [N.S. August]. At Ryswick.—The Pensioner assisted for the first time at Ryswick; the Mediator told the Allies that the Imperialists and the French had agreed to enter into conference, in order to their hastening the negotiation, and that they had chosen Friday for their first meeting in that way. Mons. Vehlen['s] *pleinpouvoirs* were read, and he accordingly owned as Ambassador from the Elector Palatin." (XVI. 63–67.)

"Thursday, August 15th [N.S.].—Being with the States' Ambassadors to give in our answer to the French Ambassadors' remarks on our Project as to the point of a treaty of commerce, and that it had been desired or proposed by the French and not by us; after much speech had with the Ambassadors as to that circumstance, and of the reasons we had, that it should appear that it was of their proposing to have a treaty of commerce and not of ours, the Pensioner said we ought to put in our protocol, that lorsqu'eux [*sic*] les Ambassadeurs des Etats avoient donné nostre Project à ceux de France, ceux-cy, ayant leu le project, avoient demandé, si l'on ne voudroit pas faire un traité de commerce: les Ambassadeurs de Hollande répondoient qu'ils ne croyent pas que nous fussions présentement prest, mais qu'il seroit mieux de le renvoyer à des commissaires, à quoy les Ambassadeurs de France ont consenti."

"Saturday the 17th [N.S. August].—The Mediator told the Allies he had nothing to lay before them but what had passed

the day before between the Imperialists and the French, and between the Spaniards and the French that morning, which, he supposed, the parties had given them an account of; we were informed that the Imperialists had gone through their whole Project without agreeing any article except that of Phillipsburg; the Spaniards agreed the affair of their contributions, and seem to come nearer to an accommodation; they did not see the French because of the dispute about place; the Mediator and the Dutch Embassy went between the two parties."

"Tuesday the 20th [N.S.] of August.—Mr. Prior received from Mr. Blathwayt His Majesty's pleasure concerning the remarks the [French] had made upon the Project, which was in general an approbation of an answer their Excellencies had given; and their Excellencies from these orders commanded Mr. Prior to draw up a memorial in favour of the French Protestants to be given to the Pensioner, as likewise the draft of an article.

"The Earl of Pembroke marked that the Pensioner said—'On dressera un article pour ouvrir le cours de la justice aux particuliers réciproquement, de laquelle (justice) la guerre a interrompu le cours.'" (XVI. 70-73.)

"Wednesday the 21st [N.S.] of August.—Mr. Prior delivered to the Lord Pembroke the memorial about the French Protestants, the article just now mentioned, a deduction of His Majesty's rights to Hudson's Bay, a memorial of Duke Schonburg's losses and pretensions, and another of the Duchess of Hamilton's titles to the Duchy of Chastel Herault, which papers the Pensioner gave in to the French."

"Wednesday the 21st [N.S.] of August. At Ryswick.—The Mediator gave in a *pleinpouvoir* for Mons. Chantereyne, Plenipotentiary from Lorraine, who was accordingly admitted in the Congress; he told the Allies that for the greater dispatch of business the French desired that they might meet every day; it was agreed that we should meet the next day, and that we might then determine if we should continue to do so; we likewise resolved that the ordinary meetings should be continued, and that on Saturdays we should meet at three o'clock, afternoon, the days growing short. The Dutch Embassy retired into the great room with the English; they told us the objection which the French had made to our late answer, and delivered to us a paper containing the rights which the French pretend to have upon Hudson's Bay."

"Thursday the 22nd [N.S. August].—The Elector of Mayence gave us a *pleinpouvoir* for two deputies from Mayence. The Congress had news that Mr. Boreel died the night before."

"Saturday the 31st [N.S.] of August. At Ryswick.—The Mediator came into the chamber of the Allies, and made an harangue to this purpose: that he asked this audience to let them know that affairs were so ill that he did not see how

they could be concluded with credit; that the height an[d] *opiniâtreté* of the French was the occasion of it; but that others were not wholly blameless; that he foresaw that the French would offer new conditions next day; that therefore he desired their Excellencies to consider if there was anything to be done at present, provided it were not separately; that as to his own part he had executed the orders of the King his Master, though may be not so well as another might have done, yet at least with as much zeal and fidelity; he therefore desired them to take care that the mediation might suffer no affront; upon which he hoped they would [make] a seasonable reflexion, nor he had no reason as yet to complain of anybody, but on the contrary was satisfied with each in particular.

"Hereupon the Imperial Embassy with those of the Empire and the rest of the Allies conferred together. Don Quiros said that the King his Master had entered into the war for the good of the Allies in general, and had more particular engagements with the Emperor; that he would always give satisfaction to these obligations, but that the war have informed [*sic*] upon the Monarchy of Spain, so as to reduce them to receive the peace of Nimègue instead of that of the Pyrenees; and France threatening them with the sieges of Oudenarde and Terragone, the Spaniard neither having forts nor force to hinder the kingdom from being put under contribution, he thought there was a necessity of closing with things as they were possible to be had, and that his signing the Treaty would not hinder the King his Master from continuing in his alliances. The Pensioner of Holland pursued: 'it was true,' he said, 'that the affairs of England and Spain and Holland were brought so near a conclusion that he hoped to have perfected them as this morning, if those of the Emperor and Empire had been more advanced, and that for them he thought they might have had a reasonable time allowed to have come in; that he had reasoned with the French to this end, but could get no other answer than that their orders were contrary to it, and that the next day they would let the Allies know the further orders from France; that he, the Pensioner, had thereupon answered that they could not sign without procuring time for their Allies, and that in a negotiation so considerable they must have time enough to send not only one but many expresses; that he could get no other answer from the French than the former; that the Dutch Embassy had therefore left them with a resolution not to sign their treaty, which therefore they desired the Mediator should know.' This Count Caunitz took upon him to do, desiring the Mediator to continue his good offices; that all the Allies in general had a mind to a peace, and that the Imperialists desired the conclusion of it, provided it might be sure and reasonable.

"The Mediator began with the points in dispute between France and the Empire, viz. Strasbourg, Alsace and Lorraine.

Count Caunitz answered that the declaration he had made [was] concerning the Allies in general, that after these points they had nothing new to offer ; but that, if the French would have been reasonable, they would have hearkened to what was offered the day before. The Mediator hereupon went to the French, returned, and told the Allies that those Ambassadors referred still to their orders, and that it was the King their Master that would answer to the consequences of them ; that before the time was expired, they would sign with any of the Allies that should be ready ; that the Mediator had said to them that there was no thought of bringing about anything of this kind, and that, since the French would not be treatable, he must take his leave of them, which he therefore did, protesting before God and man that it was in no way his fault that the negotiation was broke off. As he was going out of the room, Mons. Harley [*sic. i.e.*, Harlay], taking him by the hand and retaining him, said :—' Aussy, Monsieur, nous ne nous couperons pas la gorge l'un à l'autre demain, si Messrs les Alliés se trouveront encore icy ' ; desiring the Mediator to oblige the Allies to another meeting, which he promised to use his endeavours to bring about, and effected, so that it was resolved on for the next day, three, afternoon."

Sunday the 1st [N.S.] Sept.—" The Mediator, having been some time with the French, brought from them the new proposal ; he excused his bringing it, and said that an equivalent for Strasbourg was contained in it. The Imperialists made some difficulty in the receiving it, and said that the reason why they consented to have it read was in deference to the Mediator, for that they would refuse nothing from his hand, for they agreed to have it read and returned back again to the French ; which was accordingly done. The Mediator desired that the Congress might continue to meet on the ordinary days." (XVI. 82–86.)

" Wednesday the 4th [N.S. Sept.]. At Ryswick.—The Mediator brought three *pleinpouvoirs*, one for Hetterman from the Elector Palatin, one for Plettersdorff from Prince Lewis of Baden and the third for the Baron Snolski from the King of Sweden as Prince of the Empire : this latter did not intend to assist at the Congress, but only at the deputation from the Empire when it met at The Hague. The Mediator desired we should continue our meeting ordinarily in case anything might happen."

" Saturday the 7th [N.S. Sept.]. The Congress at Ryswick.—

" Baron Saffig['s] *pleinpouvoir* was read, and he acknowledged Ambassador and Plenipotentiary from the Elector of Trêves.

" The Mediator told the Allies that, the time running on very fast towards the 20th, the French had desired that matters of less consequence might be adjusted in order to give them more time for settling the greater points in case they should come to any conclusion."

"Tuesday the 10th [N.S. Sept.].—My Lord Villiers went from hence to Soesdyck to represent the state of our affairs to His Majesty. His Excellence had with him a short memorial concerning the points not yet adjusted, papers relating to Hudson's Bay, and those concerning our Russia trade."

"Wednesday the 11th [N.S. Sept.]. At Ryswick.—

"My Lord Pembroke was alone at the Congress, Lord Villiers being absent and Sir Joseph Williamson indisposed. His Lordship told Mr. Prior that nothing was done there, though they stayed till two o'clock."

"Friday the 13th [N.S. Sept.].—My Lord Villiers, returning from Soesdyck, brought His Majesty's opinion relating to the four points contained in the letter their Excellencies wrote to His Majesty, August the 30th.*

	"1st. If the Irish prisoners taken on board French ships (of which the list was sent) may be exchanged for French taken on board English ships.
"His Majesty agrees to it.	
	"2nd. If the right and title to the forts in Hudson's Bay is to be referred to Commissioners, the present possession being yielded to the French.
"His Majesty is satisfied that it should be so.	
	"3rd. How far His Majesty will engage his word without entering into an article as to a settlement to be made for the late King James' Queen.
"The King consents to promise that she shall have whatever she has a legal claim to, but the treaty not to break off on this point.	
	"4th. What answer to be made as to the 150,000 *livres* in the case of the Commandant which the French require to be made good to them.
"To be referred to the same Commissioners that are to decide the title of Hudson's Bay.	
	"My Lord Villiers asked His Majesty's opinion in relation to the following points :—
"The King consents to it.	"If points of less consequence should be adjusted before the greater.
"This is left to the judgment of the Ambassadors.	"In the preamble mention is usually made of the *plein-pouvoirs* on each side mutually exchanged : what sort of *plein-pouvoirs* from the French may be judged necessary ?

* *Cf.* p. 155, *supra*, and pp. 547-8, *infra*.

" We are to act conformably to the rest of the Allies, since the Empire will have finished their Treaty before this point will be handled.

" How we are to act in the guarantee of the Duke of Savoy's Treaty."

" Thursday the 12th [N.S. Sept.].—His Majesty saw the Czar at Utrecht in a public house, where he lay *incognito*, having first given audience to the Muscovitish Embassy." (XVI. 86–89)

" Saturday the 14th [N.S.] Sept. At Ryswick.—

" The Mediator desired the Allies to come again the next day, for that something might happen, though at present he had nothing to trouble them with."

" Sunday the 15th [N.S. Sept.]. At Ryswick.—

" The Mediator addressed himself to the Allies to ask their pardon that he had desired them to meet, having nothing to lay before them ; he said he had been three hours in conference with the French, but could no way make them recede from their proposal of the first of this month ; however, he desired the Allies to meet again the next day. The Imperialists desired him to let them know if anything might be done the next day, otherwise they desired to be excused from coming ; they added that they would be sure to come as usual on the ordinary days, and the next day too, if they were advertised that anything might be done."

" Monday the 16th [N.S. Sept.]. At Ryswick.—

" The Spanish, Dutch and English only were there. The Spaniards made an end of their affair so as to be ready to sign with the rest of the Allies. We likewise adjusted the points remaining in dispute, which were chiefly that of Hudson's Bay, and that of the settlement upon Queen Mary. Mr. Prior was ordered to draw up an article to prefer the title of Hudson's Bay to the Commissioners. The point of the settlement was concluded, that the Mediator should pronounce the following dictature to the French, and give them a copy of it, having first inserted it into his own protocol.

" The Pensioner sent it the next day to Loo for His Majesty's approbation, my Lord Villiers having writ to my Lord Portland upon the same subject."

" 16th [N.S.] Sept., 1697.

" It was urged by the Ambassadors that the pension to Queen Mary should be withdrawn, if it were found that any cabal or secret intrigue were carried on by her or the late King James. The French Ambassadors would not consent that this condition should be mentioned in the dictature, but they said *que cela étoit toujours*

" Memorandum :—

" Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Roy d'Angleterre ont déclaré que le Roy leur Maistre a promis, que la pension annuelle d'environ cinquante mille livres sterling, ou de telle somme quelle se trouvera établie par Acte du Parlement et scellée du grand seau d'Angleterre, en faveur de la Reine Marie d'Esté, sera payée à l'avenir confor-

sous-entendu, et que nous aurions le pouvoir entre nos mains."

ment au dit acte, et qu'ils consentent, que Mons. l'Ambassadeur Médiateur le fasse insérer dans son protocol, et en donne copie autentique a Messieurs les Ambassadeurs de France, en présence des quels, ainsi que de Messieurs les Ambassadeurs des Etats Généraux la dite déclaration a été faite."

"The Dutch are to meet to-morrow to adjust their own concerns and to regulate the proceeding of the whole affair in general."

"Tuesday, the 17th [N.S.] Sept., 1697.—Their Excellencies had a conference at the Earl of Pembroke's house. Mr. Prior read to them an article which he had drawn up for Commissioners to adjust the business of Hudson's Bay; they ordered him to get it transcribed, in order to their giving it to the Pensioner to adjust with the French; they looked over the Treaty as to the placing the articles, and commanded Mr. Prior to draw up a letter to His Majesty, which was accordingly sent away by an express that night."* (XVI. 89–92.)

"Sept. the 20th [N.S.].—The English, Spanish and Dutch Embassy went about 12 at noon to Ryswick, where the French and the Mediator were already.

"My Lord Villiers gave Mr. Prior the *brouillon* of an Act by which the King of England promises the ratification of the Peace in its due time, as likewise of those to be made with the King of Spain and the States General as far as His Majesty's good offices may prevail. This Act was written fair and returned to their Excellencies.

"Lord Villiers gave Mr. Prior two articles in French, one for comprehending the Duke of Savoy in the Treaty, the other in favour of the Elector of Brandenbourg, that a treaty made between the King of France and the old Elector, the 29th of June, 1679, should be included in our Treaty. These two articles were translated into Latin as they stand in the Treaty, No. 14 and 15.

"The next thing was concerting the Separate Article†, which was likewise translated from the copy in French received from the French Ambassadors into Latin as it stands.

"About 6, afternoon, the French sent us their articles as they had minuted them in their own language, each article in a loose sheet; the Earl of Pembroke compared them with the Latin, Mr. Prior reading the French; in the Article of Orange there appeared some difference, upon which their

* *Cf.* p. 163, *supra.*

† Providing for the validity of the Treaty without the Emperor's assent, unless he should make peace with France within a specified time

Excellencies had recourse to the Pensioner, who went in again thereupon to the French, and about an hour and half after informed the English Embassy that he had adjusted that affair; in the article *Et quoniam* was only changed to *Et in quantum*, and the three last lines relating to the ministers of Orange were omitted: the articles being thus adjusted were writing [*sic*] over. The preface or preamble was the next thing in agitation. We had understood from the Pensioner that the French would acquiesce in our having the same preamble which the Spaniards had, *mutatis mutandis*. Mr. Prior therefore translated this preamble into Latin, but the French excepted against it. The reason they gave for their so doing was that it did not come close enough to the occasion; at the same time they sent us something which they called the model of a preamble; it was extremely dry and imperfect; we objected against it and returned it back to them, alleging that it did not mention the Mediator with sufficient respect, nor once named the late King of Sweden, under whom the negotiation began. About ten at night the French sent us another model, which their Excellencies accepted and Mr. Prior translated as it stands before the Treaty. About eleven the Dutch signed their Treaty of Peace and Commerce; the Spaniards signed theirs about an hour after; and about twelve the English went in order to the signing theirs. The place thought fit by the Mediator instead of the great room was a little chamber in the inner part of his own apartment; the three French Ambassadors sat on one side of an oval table, as the three English did on the other; the Mediator sat at the end of the table; the Dutch were present; the Pensioner and Mons. Dyckvelt sat on the English side, and Mons. Haren on the French side between them and the Mediator. The Earl of Pembroke delivered the Treaty in Latin to Mons. Harlay, who delivered it to my Lord in French. Mons. Harlay read the Latin aloud, my Lord Pembroke collationing it [the French] with the Latin; the same was done with the Secret Article, and they proceeded to the signing, we our part as it was in Latin, and they their part as it was in French, till, the copies being taken fair, both parties might sign the same instrument; this was done about three in the morning.

"As soon as the Treaty was signed, Mons. de Harlay made a compliment of the joy the French Embassy had to acknowledge His Majesty's title in the manner they had done, and added, addressing himself to the English Embassy, that there was all the hope imaginable that the friendship between the Ambassadors themselves would be lasting, since it began on so happy an occasion as that of their signing a peace together. Lord Pembroke answered the compliment, and the Mediator, after having wished both parties joy, read the Dictature by which His Majesty promises that the Queen in France shall have whatever she

can have any legal pretension to by Act of Parliament, or under the Great Seal, the whole of which might amount, it was thought, to 50,000*l.* sterling per annum. The French desired that the Dictature might be inserted into the Mediator's protocol, and that they might likewise have a copy of it. Then Mons. de Callières penned, read and delivered to the Mediator a declaration that in case that part of the Treaty of Breda which the French took with them should be found to be in Latin, and not in French as they allege it was, they would withdraw this, which they had signed in French, and change it for one in Latin before the ratification.

"They parted, the English retaining the part of the Treaty which the French had signed minuted in their language, and the French retaining the part of the Treaty which the English had signed minuted in Latin; the like reciprocation was observed as to the Separate Article." (XVI. 94–99.)

"Mr. Prior embarked, the 20th, on a vessel he had hired on purpose for his transport into England; he landed the 23rd, afternoon, at Lastof, in Suffolk, and arrived, the 24th, afternoon, at Whitehall; he delivered the letter to Mr. Vernon, and left the copy of the Treaty in his hands; he paid his duty the same day to all the Justices then in town, each at his several house, viz., my Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor, Lord Orford and Lord Rumney, and the next morning to my Lord Sunderland, who came to town but the night before."

"Thursday the 26th [N.S. Sept.].—The Lords Justices met, they ordered a letter to be written to the Lords Ambassadors at The Hague and to be delivered to Mr. Prior, to whom they gave a present of two hundred guineas, and commanded the *Centurion* to bring him back to Holland. Accordingly Mr. Prior embarked the same night and arrived in Holland on Saturday the 28th."

"Saturday the 21st [N.S. Sept.]. At Ryswick.—

"The English, Spaniards and Dutch were there with the French and the Mediator in order to the signing the Treaty in form, of which they had signed the minutes the night before. Whilst the French were busy in writing their part of the Treaty fair, Mr. Swinford by my Lord Pembroke's order drew up a *mémoire* by which the French promised to give their part of the Treaty in Latin at the ratification, provided it was so practised at Breda, and promised likewise to release the French Protestants taken upon English ships, and the four ministers of Orange; this *mémoire* was entered into the protocol of the Mediator, and an authentic copy of it, signed by the Mediator, was given to their Excellencies. Mr. Swinford likewise drew up another *mémoire* on our part, that we should release the Irish taken on board French ships, which the Mediator entered into his protocol, and gave the French an authentic copy of it. (N.B.—The Mediator gave these copies the Wednesday following, *i.e.*, the 25th.) The

Secretaries of both parties having collationed the Treaties in the presence of the Secretary of the Mediation, the Spaniards, the Dutch and the English signed separately, one after another in the same apartment in which they had signed the minutes the night before, the English about one o'clock in the morning, the Dutch being present. The Mediator signed first, and then gave the Latin Treaty to the English Ambassadors, who signed it in the second column, and gave it to the French, who signed it in the third; this order was observed *vice versa* with the French copy on our side; the Secretaries of both parties put the seals to the Treaties. The French Ambassadors in the meantime looked over the English *pleinpouvoirs*.

"The Mediator read the Dictature concerning Mary d'Este in France, and gave a copy of it to Mons. de Callière[s], after which they parted.

"N.B.—The English and French signed the Separate Article likewise, but only alternatively, as they had done the night before, each party taking one part of the instrument. That, therefore, which the French signed and delivered to us was in the French language, and that which we signed and delivered to them was in the Latin, but this Article was not signed on either side by the Mediator.

"Whilst the Treaties were this afternoon preparing on either part in order to their being signed, endeavours were made to bring the Imperialists to consent to a cessation of arms on the Rhine, which the French offered *sub spe rati*, and declared that they did not doubt but that their Master would consent to it. Don Quiros therefore wrote a *billet* to Count Kaunitz at The Hague upon this subject; Count Kaunitz insisted in his answer upon having the declaration positive, and though this answer did not positively reject the proposal, it was not full enough to have anything concluded upon it then.

"My Lord Villiers immediately on his return to The Hague went express to Loo and carried the Treaty to His Majesty." (XVI. 102–106.)

"Sunday the 22nd [N.S. Sept.].—The Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries of the Emperor and Empire agreed to a cessation of arms with France; accordingly a courier was dispatched to Prince Lewis of Baden."

"Tuesday the 24th [N.S. Sept.].—My Lord Villiers returned from Loo; a duplicate of the Treaty having been dispatched for England with warrants for affixing the Broad Seal to an instrument of ratification in order to its being returned hither for His Majesty's signing."

"Wednesday the 25th [N.S. Sept.].—The Imperialists had a conference with the French about the equivalent for Strasbourg and the business of Lorraine.

"The Mediator gave us and the French authentic copies of the *mémoires* drawn up the Saturday before."

"Thursday the 26th [N.S. Sept.].—My Lord Villiers paid his first visit to the French at Delft with two coaches-and-six, my Lord Townsend, Mr. Asch, Mr. Onslow and other English gentlemen accompanying His Excellency."

"Saturday the 28th [N.S. Sept.].—Mr. Prior returned from England."

"Sunday the 29th [N.S. Sept.].—The French returned my Lord Villiers' visit; Mons. de Harlay, with two coaches-and-six was accompanied by Mons. Harlay, his kinsman, and other French gentlemen. Mons. de Cresсy and Mons. de Callière[s] came together with two coaches-and-six; they visited my Lord Pembroke and Sir Joseph Williamson in the same order."

"Friday the 4th [N.S.] Oct.—My Lord Pembroke paid his visit to the French at Delft with two coaches-and-six, English gentlemen accompanying him. His Excellency presented Mr. Prior to the French Ambassadors."

"Tuesday the 8th [N.S.] Oct.—"Their Excellencies paid their visit to the Muscovite Embassy with six coaches and six horses; the visit was only ceremonial, concerning the general friendship which the two nations desired might be established. Mons. Lefort, the first of the Muscovite Embassy, insisted upon His Majesty's praises, and the great satisfaction had in the interview he had had with the King.

"The same night a copy of the Treaty with a form of ratification, and our *pleinpouvoirs* were sent to Loo, the whole fairly written out in order to its being signed with the Signet in case the instrument under the Broad Seal should not come time enough from England; this was done in conformity to His Majesty's orders, intimated to Mr. Prior in a letter from Mr. Blathwayt of the 5th October."

"Wednesday the 9th [N.S. Oct.].—Their Excellencies agreed with the French that all fishery should be free in what seas soever notwithstanding the prescriptions in the 10th article.

"This Act, being thought by their Excellencies to be of no great use to us, was not exchanged; so this Act, though it was signed by their Excellencies, was kept in the hands of Mr. Prior." (XVI. 106–109.)

"Friday the 11th [N.S.] Oct. At Ryswick.—

"Their Excellencies went to Ryswick in order to exchange the ratifications, we having received that under the Signet the day before, and their Excellencies having this morning been in conference with the Pensioner and Ambassadors of the States in order to their proceeding conjointly in what regards France's ratifying with Spain before the Dutch or we exchanged our ratification. The French had their ratification ready engrossed with their Great Seal in a silver box in ample form; we collationed ours signed by the Signet with the Treaty as their Excellencies signed it the 20th September, and they made no objection as to the form of the ratification; their whole Treaty and ratification was perfect, except that in the eighth article relating to Hudson's Bay, the place,

Londini, and the spaces of time, *trium mensium* and *sex mensium*, was [*sic*] omitted ; of this the Secretary was to speak to his superiors, and Mr. Prior did or should have mentioned it to his. The instruments, by consent of each party, were left in the Mediator's hand till we should receive ours under the Great Seal from England to exchange with them, and the ratification to be reckoned good and valid from this present day. The French had also the Separate Article engrossed and ratified and sealed in as ample form as the Treaty ; they expected we should have the like to exchange with them, though their Excellencies at the signing of the Treaty were given to understand that this article was not to be ratified. Their Excellencies therefore commanded Mr. Prior to write to Mr. Blathwayt that the Separate Article under the Signet should be sent as soon as possible, and that he would dispatch a copy of it into England with a warrant that it should be ratified under the Great Seal.

" Before the ratifications were put into the Mediator's hand, the French produced the ratification which they will make with Spain, and they declared in the presence of the Mediator, the English and Dutch Embassy, that they were ready to exchange it with the Spaniards as soon as theirs came from Madrid, with which the Spaniards declared that they were satisfied.

" After our return from Ryswick, Mr. Prior received letters from England by a messenger, who informed him that the instrument under the Great Seal was come from England and sent forward to Loo." (XVI. 109–111.)

" Saturday the 12th [N.S. Oct.]. At Ryswick.—

" The French, having understood that the instrument under the Great Seal was come from England, informed the Lords Ambassadors by the Mediator that they made an exception against His Majesty's styling himself *Rex Franciae*, and the Mediator then said that, if they had made this objection when they exchanged their instrument of ratification with ours under the Signet—.After some arguing upon this point, they came to this conclusion, that they would be satisfied, provided we would declare that we would change it, if it were found to have been practised otherwise in the ratification of the Treaty of Breda and of other treaties made since. Their Excellencies were willing to oblige themselves to stand by the example of Breda, as they had done likewise in the point of the language, but did not think it proper to consent to the clause *and other treaties made since*, not knowing but that the style of *Rex Franciae* might have been omitted in the Treaty made with France against Holland in 1672 or in the Treaty of Commerce in 1677, or in that of neutrality for America in 1686."

" Sunday the 13th [N.S. Oct.].—His Excellency Sir Joseph Williamson visited the Mediator upon this subject ; the French were mighty impatient to have our ratification, alleging that

the courier that was to carry the Dutch ratification stayed for ours. It came to The Hague about eleven at night ; their Excellencies did not think fit to exchange it without coming to some *brevius* explication of what was huddled up on Saturday night."

"Monday the 14th [N.S. Oct.].—Mr. Prior was sent to the Mediator to let him know as well that the ratification was come as the reason why we would not so hastily exchange it ; the Mediator said he was going that day to Delft, and would try to find some expedient to compose this affair ; he did so, but without any [success].

"Their Excellencies having spoken with the Mediator, he drew an Act which bore date the 12th, that if the French agreed to it, it might be inserted in his protocol, and the ratifications might be exchanged.

"Extrait du Protocolle de la Médiation tenue au Château de Ryswick, le 2–12 d'Octobre, 1697.

"Sur la diversité qui se rencontre entre le premier Article du Traité de Paix, signé au Château de Ryswick le 20 de Septembre dernier, et le préambule de la ratification à l'égard des titres, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs Extraordinaires du Roy de La Grande Bretagne ont déclaré que cela s'est ainsi pratiqué à Breda, et qu'en cas que cela ne se trouve pas, ils promettent de fournir un autre Acte de Ratification conforme à celui du dit Traité de Breda.

N. Lilliroot." *Copy.*

"Mr. Prior went to Delft with the Secretary of the Mediation ; we found the French Embassy together at Mons. Harlay's, and told them that, if they approved of the foregoing Act, he was ready to change the ratification with them ; they answered they would stick to the Act as it had been agreed on Saturday night ; so Mr. Prior returned with our ratification." (XVI. 112–115.)

"Tuesday the 15th [N.S. Oct.].—Mr. Prior waited upon the Mediator by their Excellencies' order to desire him to procure a meeting for their Excellencies with the French ; which was agreed to be the next day at Ryswick ; the Mediator had in the meantime made the alterations following in the extract of his protocol of the 12th in order to bring the French to an agreement thereupon :—'Messieurs les Ambassadeurs Extraordinaires du Roy de La Grande Bretagne ont déclaré que cela s'est ainsi practiqué au Traité de Breda *et ailleurs*, et qu'en cas que cela ne se trouve pas, ils promettent de fournir un autre Acte de Ratification réformé en ce point et conforme avec *les dits Traités*, si Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Roy Très Chrétien n'aiment mieux se tenir à la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur Médiateur faite le 1–11 May, 1697.

"This expedient the Mediator proposed as from himself, but instead of an answer my Lord Pembroke received a letter from him, that the French would agree to the Act, provided it might be inserted in these terms :—

'Sur la diversité qui se rencontre entre le premier Article du Traité de Paix signé à Ryswyck le 20 Septembre dernier et le pouvoir aussi bien que le préambule de la ratification du dit Traité á l'égard de titres, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Roy de La Grande Bretagne ont déclaré que cela s'est ainsi pratiqué au *Traité de Breda et dans tous les autres Traités de Paix*, et qu'en cas que cela ne se trouve pas ainsi, ils promettent de fournir *un autre pouvoir et un autre Acte de Ratification* réformé en ce point et conforme avec les dits Traités de Paix à moins que Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Roy Très Chrétien n'ayment mieux se tenir à la déclaration de Mons. L'Ambassadeur Médiateur faite le 1–11 May, 1697.'

"This Act so formed appeared to their Excellencies more unreasonable than anything they yet had been offered; it was observable likewise that it was written in the same hand as that in which we received the minutes of the French Treaty, the 20th of September, which upon occasion might have been made use of as a good argument to prove that the French [*sic*]* from the point they thought themselves sure of, *i.e.*, that they would stick to the first agreement made on Saturday night. Their Excellencies therefore sent Mr. Prior to Ryswyck to return this last Act into the Mediator's hand, and to tell him that they had a very great respect for anything that came from his hand, which was the reason that they would consent to that Act which His Excellency had communicated to them that morning by Mr. Prior, but that it was impossible for them to consent to that last which His Excellency had sent them. He blotted out the words *le pouvoir aussy bien que*, and added after Breda *et communément dans les ratifications des Traités de Paix*, but this was not consented to on the French part; so Mr. Prior had for answer that their Excellencies and the States' Ambassadors should have a conference with those of France the next day, which they accordingly had, and agreed to an Act in these words to be inserted into the protocol and to bear date the 12th, though it was agreed (as is said), *Wednesday the 16th.*†

"According to, and in virtue of this agreement Mr. Prior went this afternoon to collation the Treaty ratified with that of the French; which was done at the Mediator's house, the Secretary of the Mediation being present; but in the French instrument in the 8th article concerning Hudson's Bay there was a blank left for *Londini* and another for the time of meeting, *trium mensium*, as for the time of finishing, *sex mensium;* for which reason Mr. Prior left our instrument in the hands of the Mediator, and withdrew that under the Signet, the French Secretary returning [*sic*] to know the orders of his superiors herein, and returned [*sic*] to the Mediator's house the next morning, where Mr. Prior went again to meet him."

* Supply *would not budge* or equivalent words.

† Here follows a blank space in which it was apparently intended to insert the revised Act.

"Thursday the 17th [N.S. Oct.].—The French Secretary said his superiors were of opinion that leaving the blank was in effect giving us a power to fill it up as we pleased, and that, since nothing more could be expected than that their instrument should conform to ours, he or I might fill it up: Mr. Prior, as their Excellencies had ordered him, said he did not think that either of us had that power, and that it was very dangerous for anybody in England to alter the least syllable in an instrument under the Great Seal, which we had a very new instance in about the changing the word *celsissimum* in the Brandebourg article into *serenissimum*, and that we conceived they were under the same restriction; but Mr. Prior proposed as from himself, that the Mediator would be pleased to enter it into his protocol, that this insertion was made in his presence, and that he would let Mr. Prior have an attested copy of the extract; to which the Mediator consenting the ratification was exchanged.

"We sent that of the French this afternoon to Loo; and an Act for the Peace to take place according to the times prescribed in the 10th Article, to begin from the day of the signing the Peace, was that evening signed on both sides."

"Friday the 18th [N.S.] Oct.—The original Act was sent to Sir William Trumbull with a copy of the extract of the protocol relating to the title, and a copy of each to Mr. Vernon." (XVI. 116–123.)

"Thursday the 24th [N.S.] Oct.—The Muscovite Embassy returned their Excellencies' visit, their Excellencies being together to receive them in my Lord Pembroke's house; they spoke by an interpreter, who repeated in Latin what they said, the Earl of Pembroke answered in English, Mr. Prior interpreting likewise in Latin; the compliments were on both sides the great readiness and willingness each nation was in to have a good correspondence and friendship with the other, which their Excellencies said they had particular order from His Majesty to cultivate, and to endeavour the reviving and renewing the old concord and customs between our subjects and theirs, that we should therefore appoint our Secretary to draw up a *mémoire* of what might be judged necessary on the occasion, which, they replied, their Secretary should be ready to receive."

"Friday the 25th [N.S. Oct.].—Accordingly Mr. Prior, by their Excellencies' order, drew up a memorial and carried it to their Muscovite Secretary."

"Thursday the 24th [N.S. Oct.].—Mr. Prior exchanged the Separate Article ratified under the Great Seal, and withdrew that under the Signet from the hand of the Mediator, in the same manner as he had done the ratification of the Treaty; the same day and the next, Friday the 25th, their Excellencies and the Dutch, at the desire of the Imperial and Palatine Ministers, had two long conferences with the French about the Palatinate, the French, contrary to what they formerly

promised, insisting to have that part of the country sequestered which they are to give up till *Madame's* pretensions shall be satisfied. The Mediator proposed that the Elector should be possessed of it immediately, and that a certain time should be set, after which those places should be sequestered, if they could not come to an agreement in the meantime. It is not to be wondered that nothing could be agreed on in this matter, Count Vehlen, the Elector Palatine's Ambassador, having accommodated this business underhand between the French King and his Master by their agents at Düsseldorf and Paris. The French had not then sent their memorial about the *réfugiés*. Their Excellencies spoke to them again of it; they said they would send it by the first; Mons. de Harlay said *qu'il y avoit parmis ces gens des marauts, mais qu'il y en eut aussi qui devroient être distingués.*"

"Monday the 28th [N.S. Oct.].—Their Excellencies had another conference, in which they interposed their best offices in favour of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel in the business of Rhinfels, but without any effect, the French insisting that the Prince of Rhinfels was dispossessed purely on their account. Their Excellencies insisted likewise in another conference held in the Grande Salle"

"Tuesday the 29th [N.S. Oct.].—That a clause should be added to the Cession of Strasburg, that the business of religion should remain as it is; but the French refused, alleging that there was no danger, but that the capitulation made with the town would always be observed. In the Mediator's chamber, in the presence of the English and Dutch Ambassadors, and of some of the Ministers of the Protestant Princes of the Empire, the Mediator proposed to the Imperialists that they should give a declaration that they meant and intended that the Peace of Westphalia should be established in all points ecclesiastical throughout all those places which France should give back; this proposition the Imperialists rejected with a great deal of heat, saying that the Emperor had given no occasion for any jealousy of this kind, and till he did, it was not proper for others to proceed in such a manner.

"The French proposed that in those reunions they should restore the Catholic religion should remain as it now is. The English and Dutch, in a conference held with the Mediator in his apartment, represented to him, as he did to the French, the unreasonableness of these proceedings as being contrary to what was agreed on in the Separate Article, but they insisted upon this point, without maintaining it with any reason, and most of the reunions being in the Elector of Palatine's country who should have defended it, their Excellencies could do nothing more in it."

"Wednesday the 30th [N.S. Oct.].—Mons. Smettau proposed that what the French asked concerning the reunions should be in a Separate Article with the Catholic Princes only, and that the Protestants should have the liberty of signing; the

Imperialists came out in order to give the Germans an account of the conference they had had with the French; and the Dutch and English came away from Ryswick; after which, on Thursday, the 31st, between one and two o'clock in the morning, the Imperialists and the Ministers of all the Roman Catholic Princes of the Empire and some of the Protestant Princes signed the Peace; the other Protestants refused to sign, but had time allowed them to come in till the exchange of the ratifications, which is six weeks. The French declared that they shall all enjoy the Peace, but those that shall not sign in the time prescribed shall be looked upon as enemies to France, and that Brandenbourg shall not have the benefit of the inclusive article in our Treaty.

"Some time before they signed, the Mediators withdrew, leaving a declaration in the hand of their secretary that, there being some things in this Peace contrary to that of Westphalia, whereof their Master was a guaranty, they could not consent to the signing it. This declaration was delivered in as soon as the parties had signed." (XVI. 123–129.)

"Des Prétensions de Sa Majesté Britannique comme Prince d'Orange, Seigneur d'Arlaye."

"1. Que suivant et en exécution des Traitez de Nimègue et de Munster et autres, conclus avec Leurs Majestés Très Chrétienne et Catholique, Sa Majesté Britannique rentrera en la pleine jouissance et possession tant de sa Principauté d'Orange, droits indépendants et domaines y annexés, que des Terres et Seigneuries qui luy appartiennent en France, Flandres, Duché et Comté de Bourgogne, Pais de Charolois, et autres pais de la domination de Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, aussi bien que de tous droits et actions, ainsi et au même état qu'elle en jouissoit avant les dits traitez ou a deu jouir suivant iceux. Et que pour mettre fin à tous troubles, procès et incidens, qui pour iceux pourroient survenir, Sa Majesté Britannique, comme aussi Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, délégueront des commissaires pour régler et liquider le tout souverainement et de plein[pouvoir].

"2. Que Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne fera restituer avec effet tout ce qui a été perceu dans la Principauté d'Orange déchargé, ou sursis en rentes, domaines et droits, depuis le Traité de Nimègue jusqu'au tems de la déclaration de la présente guerre; ensemble de tous domaines, rentes, et droits des autres terres et seigneuries de Sa Majesté Britannique étant sous la domination de Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne avec intérêts pour les nonjouissances.

"3. Et pour ce qui est des terres et domaines, dont Sa Majestè Très Chrétienne a joui et qui appartiennent à Sa Majesté Britannique, Sa dite Majesté Très Chrétienne en fera compte de même qu'en avoit usé auparavant Sa Majesté Catholique, suivant la vérification qui en sera faite par les dits commissaires, et sera aussi fait compte respectif des revenus

perceus de la Principauté d'Orange et du Marquisat de Bergues-op-Zoom et des charges payées et à payer.

" 4. Toutes nouveautez établies et introduites dans la Principauté d'Orange, subsides et autres charges sur le général, au préjudice, et depuis les susdits traitez, sont anéanties et abolies sans retour ni sans [*sic*] conséquence, et satisfaction et accordée [*sic*] en général, et que tous les corps et les particuliers seront restituez en tous leurs droits et biens, avec intérêts contre ceux qui les ont perceus, et indemnité comme de droit, s'il y échoit et, spécialement les Protestants, à la vérification et règle des dits commissaires; et les quatre ministres prisonniers depuis 12 années seront incessamment mis en liberté et réintégrez en leur premier état.

" 5. Et d'autant que Sa Majesté Britannique a été empêchée de jouir des terres et droits qu'elle possède dans la Franche Comté, et droits en dépendans, comme il est spécifié par le Traité de Munster, il sera dit et stipulé par le nouveau Traité, que la prescription ni aucun laps de tems n'aura lieu, et qu'a cet égard, aussi bien que pour tous ses autres domaines et surtout pour la Principauté d'Orange, il sera expressément déclaré que tous édits, arrêts, déclarations, décrets, saisies, mainmises, adjudications, et autres actes, de quelle nature qu'ils soient, contraires aux susdits traitez, et intervenus depuis iceux, ou durante la minorité de Sa Majesté Britannique demeureront cassez et anéantis, en vertu du nouveau Traité sans aucun retour ni conséquence. Et comme tous les principaux domaines de Sa Majesté Britannique sont situez dans les Provinces Unies, où se trouve son véritable domicile, comme Prince d'Orange, que tous procez intentez, ou à intenter, seront renvoyez à la Cour de Holland, à l'exemple de ce que le Grand Conseil à Malines a jugé contre le Comté de la Solres ; tout ce qui sera fait au contraire demeure nul et anéanti sauf pour les actions particuliers et hypothécaires sur quelques domaines singuliers, et alors on suivra l'ordre des jurisdictions, ou si bon semble à Sa Majesté Britannique ou à ses officiers de se servir en ce cas des anciens committimus.

" 6. Et pour ce qui est des traitez particuliers, conclus entre Sa Majesté Britannique et Sa Majesté Catholique devant et en exécution du Traitez de Munster, seront aussi exécutés de bonne foy ; et pour plus de validité d'iceux, à cause des assignations y exprimées, Sa Majesté Impériale en tant qu' à elle peut ou pourra toucher, ou à l'Empire, autorise iceux traitez ; veut qu'ils ayent autant de force que si elle y avoit été présente, et y avoit consenti ; et qu'en tout tems ils soient exécutez, nonobstant tous droits, réversion[s] et autres, quels qu'ils soient, présent[s] et à venir, que Sa dite Majesté Impériale tient pour deuement dénommez sans qu'elle, ses hoirs, et ses sucesseurs y puissent déroger ni revenir sous quel prétexte que ce soit.

" 6 [*sic.*] Que dans le Traité qui sera fait entre Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne et Sa Majesté Catholique il sera dit que les sus-

dits articles seront exécutez tout de même que s'ils y étoient insérez de mot à mot, et que tous les domaines et droits de Sa Majesté Britannique, situez dans la Province de Luxembourg et autres, qui sont ou qui ont été sous la domination de Sa Majesté Catholique, seront restituez à Sa dite Majesté Britannique avec toute indemnité pour les détériorations, et qu' à cet effet tous engagistes et décrétistes, ou autres possesseurs, les laisseront vuides et libres sans prétendre ni compensation ni remboursement de Sa dite Majesté Britannique. Tous actes, arrêts, et procédures, de quelle nature qu'ils soient, demeurent cassez et anéantis, aussi bien que tous ceux qui seront intervenus pendant la minorité de Sa dite Majesté Britannique sans aucun retour ni conséquence." (XVI. 262–267.)

"Résultat de la Conférence tenue entre LEURS EXCELLENCES MESSIEURS LES AMBASSADEURS EXTRAORDINAIRES DE FRANCE à Delft, et MESSIEURS LES AMBASSADEURS DES ETATS GÉNÉRAUX, le 9me Aoust, 1697.

"Les Ministres de France tombent d'accord sur les articles 1, 2, 3.

"4. L'on s'informera s'il y a quelque chose à la charge des Souverains, ce que l'on pourra examiner, ou si cela regarde seulement les particuliers lorsque l'on verra si l'on ne pourra pas ouvrir la justice à leurs plaintes.

"5. Les Ministres François tombent d'accord sur cet article, mais à ce sujet on allègue qu'en Angleterre on a mis beaucoup des charges sur les François qu'on devroit redresser. 1. Qu'on ne peut pas porter en Angleterre des marchandises qu'avec des vaisseaux du pais du crus d'où sont les navires, 2. La défence de la laine de France. 3. Les droits que les Anglois exigent plus fort quand les marchandises ne sont pas portées par leurs propres vaisseaux. 4. Les droits qu'on paye pour les feus tout le long des côtes. 5. Sur cet article on demande aussi réciprocation dans les colonies, ou les François feront en tout la même chose.

"6. 1. On demande que les Irelandois pris sur les vaisseaux François soient élargis. 2. Les prisonniers réfugiés sur les côtes ne pourront estre relâchés ; ils s'éclairciront pourtant là-dessus. 3. Les François demeurants en Angleterre jouissent de leurs biens en France, et n'ont pas besoin de cet article, mais s'ils sont réfugiés, on n'y pourra rien faire, si non qu'ils fussent sortis avant les édits, et qu'ils n'ont pas été réclamés, ou avec permission du Roy.

"7. La France demeure d'accord sur cet article à la réserve qu'ils ne peuvent pas admettre l'exception y insérée à cause que le Fort de Hudson nommé cy-devant Bourbon, a appartenu au Roy de France, et qu'un déserteur l'a mis dans le pouvoir des Anglois, qui luy ont donné le nom de Nelson, après quoy les François l'ont repris en tems de paix, et les Anglois s'en sont rendu les maistres durant cette guerre, et contre la capitulation faite ils ont retenu prisonnier le Commandant avec

150 mille livres de France ; et ainsi la France soutient que le dit fort doit être rendu, le Commandant relâché et dédommagé, et qu'en tems de paix on pourra examiner le droit de l'un et de l'autre soit par des arbitres ou des commissaires comme l'on le trouve à propos.

" D'accord sur les Articles 8, 9, 10, 11.

" 12. La France demande plus d'éclaircissement sur la période commençant—*Et quoniam.*

" D'accord sur les Articles 13 et 14.

" La France est d'accord qu'on renvoye l'examen du Traité de Commerce et du Traité de Neutralité après la Paix.

" L'on demande encore l'exécution de l'acte ou contract de mariage de l'espouse du Roy Jacques.

" Les Ambassadeurs des Etats Généraux des Pais-Bas, ayant exécuté tout ce qui est cy-dessus, ont répondu et déclaré qu'ils en feront rapport, et donneront part à leurs Excellences Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Roy d'Angleterre, afin d'être répondu par eux comme ils trouveront convenient." (XVII., No. 16.)

	" Réponse aux remarques que MESSIEURS LES AMBASSADEURS DE FRANCE firent, le 9me d'Aoust, sur le Projet de Paix entre l'Angleterre et la France.
" Approved by His Majesty.	" 4. Cet article regarde seulement les particuliers. On demande que les voyes ordinaires de la justice soyent ouvertes, afin que les droits, prétensions et actions de chacun puissent être vuidées et déterminées ; et on croit qu'il est nécessaire de faire insérer un article dans le Traité pour cet effet.
" Approved by His Majesty.	" 5. On attend que le commerce soit libre universellement par tous les royaumes et domaines des deux Seigneurs Rois en quelque pais du monde que ce soit, et les droits et impôts sur les marchandises estant déjà réglés par les loix de chaque nation, nous consentons d'en remettre la considération à un traité de commerce qui sera fait selon la proposition faite par les François.
" It is His Majesty's pleasure that their Excellencies do pro-	" 6. On demande que tous les François qui ont été habitants

ceed herein in the same manner as the States General, the Elector of Brandenbourg and other Protestant Princes, observing the following particulars, viz., that as the Irish taken upon French ships shall be set at liberty, so it is expected that there be the like reciprocation of the French *réfugiez* taken at sea.

" Their Excellencies are to take care, as much as may be, that no handle be given to the French to ask the restitution of the Irish estates or return of Irishmen that are [or] shall be under confiscation or attainder, and in case such demand be made, not to admit of any expression or clause to that effect.

ou demeurants dans les royaumes ou domaines du Roy de la Grande Bretagne soyent mis en liberté, et que tous les sujets naturels du dit Roy, possesseurs de terres et autres biens et fonds en France, soyent restablis dans la jouissance de leurs terres et autres biens en fonds ; comme aussi tous ceux de la nation Françoise qui estoient en Angleterre avant les édits, ou qui ont eu la permission de Sa Majesté Très Chrétienne de se retirer de la France.

" N.B. Mons. le Pensionnaire sçait déjà que les Anglois agiront, en ce qui regarde les Protestants François en général, selon ce que feront les Estats Généraux et l'Electeur de Brandebourg, etc

" C'est la raison pour quoy on n'insiste pas plus particulièrement sur ce point dans cet article.

" It is His Majesty's pleasure that their Excellencies do endeavour to obtain from the French the present exception in the Project relating to Hudson's Bay, and if that be despaired of by their Excellencies, then in the stead of such exception, to propose and insist on a clause leaving all things relating to Hudson's Bay in the condition they shall be in at the signing of the Treaty, and referring all those matters in dispute to be determined by the Commissioners that shall be appointed for the Treaty of Commerce.

" His Majesty approves of this answer. (*Cf.* p. 534, *supra.*)

" His Majesty approves hereof, and that the consideration of the Treaty of Neutrality in America be likewise

" 7. Le Fort de Hudson appartenant véritablement aux Anglois, il est bien juste que la possession leur en demeure; l'affaire du Commandant est à présent devant le Conseil Privé du Roy, et sera jugée comme une affaire particulière selon ce qui est prescrit dans le 4me article.

" 12. Dans l'article d'Orange *Et quoniam*, etc., Mons. le Pensionnaire y fera réponse.

" Un Traité de Commerce sera remis à des commissaires comme les François ont proposé.

referred to the same Commissioners.

"His Majesty approves of this answer."

"Il n'est pas nécessaire de rien stipuler pour l'epouse du cy-devant Roy Jacques, ce Traité ne dérogeant point à ce qu'elle doit posséder par les loix d'Angleterre.
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